John Macdonald Ross.

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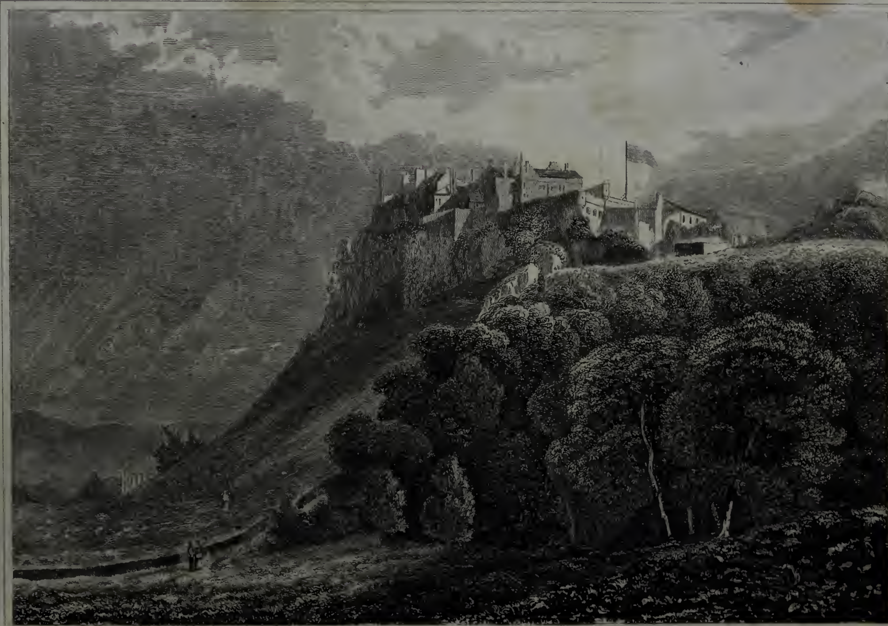

A.S. Masson del^t. J. Gellatly Sculp^t.

A

NEW DESCRIPTION

OF THE

TOWN AND CASTLE OF STIRLING;

WITH AN

APPENDIX,

CONTAINING

NOTICES OF ROADS, STEAM-BOATS, COACHES, INNS, LODGING-HOUSES, &c.

ALSO AN ANALYSIS OF THE MINERAL WATERS AT AIRTHREY AND DUNBLANE.

STIRLING:

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1835.

TO THE

HONOURABLE

THE

PROVOST, MAGISTRATES,

AND

TOWN COUNCIL,

OF THE ROYAL BURGH OF STIRLING;

THE FOLLOWING LITTLE WORK,

ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE

TOWN AND CASTLE,

AND SOME OF THE MOST PROMINENT OBJECTS IN THE IMMEDIATE NEIGHBOURHOOD,

IS HUMBLY DEDICATED BY THEIR MOST OBEDIENT SERVANT,

THE PUBLISHER.

INTRODUCTORY.

CHAP. I.

A person's *own* place *is* his own place,—and although not one inch of ground nor even one stone therein can he claim as his own,—yet, in the best of all senses, it is his *own place*—seeing that all his sympathies are centered there, and all his loves, and joys, and pleasures, co-mingled as they may be with the bitterness of disappointment and the delusions of hope, are there localized;—every endearment indeed which in any way conduces to sweeten and mollify the sour and rugged paths of the world, will in one's *own place* gleam through the bleakest cloud of misfortune and sorrow, and throw a halo around every stone, rock, and circumstance of the locality. But when one attempts to write about his own place, he is generally looked upon with suspicion. It is immediately and sometimes erroneously pre-supposed that the book must be imbued with a deep tincture of provincialism; and it will be fortunate, indeed, if the unlucky writer get off even with this: for some narrow-minded readers

may stigmatize his book as crammed with mere uninteresting jargon, and say of the writer that he is one of those self-important personages who would fain transform a midge into a mountain, although when the mountain travails, it is only capable of bringing forth a mouse. Now in order to disarm all this sort of petty criticism at once, I here in the very threshold tell and forewarn my readers that my *own place* is Stirling, anciently *Stryveling*, "the Rock of Strife,"—the Bulwark of the North,"—"the Key of the Highlands,"—a place interesting to every Scotchman—the birth-place of royalty—the palace of kings—a place proudly overlooking more glorious battle-fields, where the independence and honour of Scotland were asserted and secured, than all the other fortresses of our country put together. And I will moreover tell my snarling cynical *friends*, that I am not a mere mouth-piece of *locality*, for I have been as far as the Metropolis of braid Scotland, "Auld Reekie"—the *soi-disant* "Modern Athens,"—and in my youth have seen the "Heart of Mid-Lothian," and observed that the Statue of Charles II. had *usurped* the spot which that of a better man should have occupied. I have witnessed too the relics of Captain Porteous' black-band, yclept by the Edinburgh rabble the *town-rats*, who, when sent with screwed bayonets to disperse a "bicker," were denominated the "Claugh," and upon the appearance of whom all idea of hostile encounter betwixt the parties ceased, and a temporary union effected, for the purpose of pelting the *town-rats*, under the very well known cognomen of *the Claugh*. On these occasions

it was customary for the youthful heroes engaged in "the bicker" to shout with one consent—"Join sides, join sides—the Claugh, the Claugh!"—and then commence a universal pelting at the *rats;* but I understand all these things are now done away with amid the recent improvements, and a new-fangled thing called the *police* introduced into the *rat*-burrows. Nevertheless I must own I have yet to learn that the circumstances of Auld Reekie have been bettered by the improvements and new approaches—and that either the security or morality of the citizens of Modern Athens has been improved by the substitution of the police for the town-rats,—or that the bailies have less diurnal duty to perform under the new system. However, it is the fashion, and here is an end of the matter.

I have been at Glasgow, too, the commercial and manufacturing Metropolis of our dear country. The people here I found to be of a very curious and strange way of thinking and acting. When we, the people of Stirling, want a piece of cloth to protect our bodies from the severities of the weather, we give our yarn to a weaver, who, after a process of warping, beaming, hiddling, and "giving-in," doucely seats himself on his loom, and his wife having wound his pirns, the honest man plies thread after thread until the cloth is formed in a rational and decent-like manner. But in Glasgow, instead of this human-like mode of making cloth, they put water into a large kettle, which they call, and very appropriately, a boiler, and under which they kindle a fire in such a way as our good-wives do when they are going to have a "Muckle Washing;" and the

result is, that with the help of certain wheels, bars of iron, and a great complication of clattering and very noisy apparatus, enveloped in clouds of steam and smoke,—conjured up it would appear to conceal the incantation,—cloth is produced! I wish the Glasgow people may be "canny." They are, moreover, as I hear, compelling fire and water, arranged as above, to perform the work of horses, in dragging loads of very great weight, along roads made for the purpose. These, and many other things which might be mentioned, make good my assertion that the folks of Glasgow have curious ways of thinking and acting, and show besides that I am not just such a mere engine of locality as a carping reader might imagine.

I observed also, in these two great towns, that their streets are illuminated in a manner very similar to our own; for there also they have contrived to produce light without any apparent fuel. And *certes* were any of our witch-burning forefathers, think I, to rise from their graves, and be placed without any initiation among our modern improvements, although some might confound them by their power and complication of parts, adjusted so as to produce a very formidable result, and others, such as the paper-making machine, from their apparent simplicity—yet none would engage their uninformed and superstitious brains so much as gas light. They would here be like men who, while in the midst of the common realities of life, fell asleep doting about supernatural inconsistencies, and who, when they awoke, found these apparently realised to the fullest extent. The modern world, which *we* find

a sober reality, would appear to their untutored minds a perfect dream;—and reverting to the ideas they had formed, and the practices they had pursued in life, they would instantly be for forming themselves into a conclave, or synod, for the purpose of devising measures to enable them to extirpate the magicians, and banish their heinous enchantments from the face of the earth. But enough of this introductory gossip, written with the laudable purpose of exhibiting to my readers that I am not altogether a limpit which invariably adheres to its rock, whether the tide leave it or not. The result of all this is that I shall endeavour to tell only the truth, and if not the whole truth, yet nothing but truth, if possible; besides I have hopes that some farther light may be thrown upon our local antiquities, and that I shall be entitled to claim that merit which is due to every attempt, however humble, to elucidate any part of the history of our country.

CHAP. II.

Outline of the History of the Castle.

STIRLING, than which there are few towns more distinguished for historical incident, and certainly none more remarkable for beauty of situation, is at least as ancient as any other of our present towns, and unquestionably much older than the most of them. Like the metropolis of its kingdom it is built on an eminence that rises gradually from the east, and is bounded on the west by its veteran fortress, raised on the summit of a high and precipitous rock, and affording from its commanding situation, views of surrounding scenery which for richness and variety are perhaps unsurpassed in any other portion of the world.

The name, anciently *Stryveling*, said to signify "the hill or rock of strife," is supposed to have originated from the numerous contests of which at a very remote period it was the subject and the scene. Its early history, however, like that of Scotland in general, is involved in much obscurity and confusion. The veil which hid its features seems not to have been removed till about the twelfth century, though from some glimmerings obtained by the peering eye of the historian prior to that period, we learn that the rock of Stirling was strongly fortified by the Picts; and as it lay near the boundary of their kingdom it was the subject of frequent broils betwixt them and their neighbours, the

Scots and Northumbrians, whose dominions also terminated near it. The early writers assert that Agricola also here raised fortifications; and later historians state that those ambitious, sagacious, but enslaving conquerors, the Romans, had a station on it, where they concerted their schemes, and made their futile preparations for subduing the indomitable spirit of the north. Indeed there is every reason to believe that Stirling was a Roman station; as Sir Robert Sibbald upwards of 135 years ago saw a stone* some where about the place, which indicated that the Second Legion had its quarters here. Nor is this at all improbable:—Stirling lies but a few miles beyond the Roman wall, and as that people would be desirous of keeping the unsubdued Caledonians at a distance from their province, there is nothing more likely than that they should have taken possession of a spot so capable of furnishing them with the means of defending themselves and of annoying their enemies beyond the wall. We see at this day, at Ardoch, that they had a stated camp, in a place much farther from the province than Stirling.

This fortress, in those early years, had, like states and empires, its rise, its fall, its glory and decline. In accordance with the barbarous spirit of the age, the ven-

* This Stone is still to be seen on the hill opposite the old or northern gate of the castle, but the original inscription is much obliterated. It ran thus:—"IN EXCV. AGIT. LEG. II."—of which the reading was understood to be—*In excubias agitantes legionis secundæ*—"For the daily and nightly watch of the Second Legion."

geance of those whose efforts it had occasionally baffled, was vented on its walls, and it was frequently razed to the foundation, but as often hastily and necessarily re-erected. It was first demolished towards the middle of the ninth century, when the Scots under Kenneth II. overthrew the Pictish empire; and in their zeal to obliterate every memorial of that people, not only gave new names to provinces and towns, but fired by the blind rage of barbarism, demolished many magnificent and useful edifices which had been reared by them, and the fortress of Stirling among the rest, was totally destroyed. On the death of Kenneth, in 855, his brother Donald III. ascended the Scottish throne, who had scarcely seized the reins of government, when his kingdom was invaded by two Northumbrian princes, Osbrecht and Ella. After several obstinate engagements, in which success was varied and alternate, these princes obtained a complete victory over the Scottish king at Berwick,—made him prisoner,—totally dispersed his army,—and marching northward, subdued all before them to the town of Stirling. By a treaty of peace,—for which the Scots, in their forlorn situation were compelled to sue,—the Northumbrians became masters of the whole country south of the river Forth; and the better to preserve the territories ceded to them by this treaty, re-built the Castle of Stirling, its then size and form having been "a mere tower like an ordinary baronial fortalice," as is indicated by the gothic figure which represents the *Castrum Strivilense* on the ancient seal of the burgh.

The Northumbrians enjoyed their new conquests for about twenty years; when,—together with their original possessions on the south side of the Forth,—this fortress was again delivered to the Scots, on condition of their uniting with the Saxons to repel the Danes. It is also affirmed by the early writers, that towards the close of the tenth century, when Scotland under Kenneth III. was invaded by these turbulent rovers, that monarch appointed Stirling castle to be the rendezvous for his army, and thence proceeded with his troops to Luncarty, where these northern hordes were completely routed.

The earliest historical notice, however, we have of Stirling, is in the year 1124, when Alexander I. died at *Stryveling*, so that even at this early date, Stirling must have been at least occasionally the residence of royalty; and in 1174, when William the Lion in an unsuccessful expedition into England was made prisoner, after enduring twelve months' captivity, he was ransomed by his subjects, who delivered up to the English in guarantee, "the four principal fortresses of the kingdom, viz. Stirling, Edinburgh, Roxburgh, and Berwick."

From this period,—a period when the dawn of the history of this citadel begins to break,—we find it the scene of numerous hostile transactions; but as these are so closely interwoven with the general history of the kingdom, it might be deemed superfluous in this limited survey, to enter into any lengthened detail of them. Forming, as it was emphatically styled, the "Key to the Highlands," its possession was ardently

coveted by those who sought to govern Scotland, and in less than half a century, it was taken and re-taken, alternately, after protracted sieges, no less than eight different times, by the Scots and English.

When Edward I. of England, exasperated at Baliol's renunciation of his allegiance, set out accompanied by an immense army with the intention of subjugating Scotland, the strongest fortresses in the kingdom yielded on his approach; and Stirling *cum ceteris* unresistingly surrendered to the enemy's power. The following year, 1297, immediately after the battle of Stirling, the English were compelled to evacuate it by that "stalwart knycht of Elderslee," Sir William Wallace, who demolished it after the unfortunate battle of Falkirk. It was soon after, however, repaired and garrisoned under Edward II. and but a few months more elapsed, when it was again in the possession of the Scots. The English tyrant re-besieged it successfully in 1300, and retained it for three years; but at the expiry of that period was forced again to surrender it to his hated, his inveterate but patriotic foe—Edward, who,—burning with rage and disappointment, this being the only fortress of Scotland which defied his power,—resolved to reduce it to his obedience at whatever risk.

As the defence of our castle was undertaken at this time (1304), in the pure spirit of chivalry, and as it was the only fortress in Scotland that continued to set at defiance the armies of England, it may be both amusing and instructive, to give an abridged account of the siege as related by Tytler, not so much so, however, as to omit any of the incidents which are calculated to

throw light upon the manners of the age. The army brought against it by Edward was the best appointed and every way the most powerful that had ever belea-guered its ancient strength. Scotland had been over-run, for the sixth time, by Edward, in pursuit of his ambitious project, and for some time every strength of the kingdom lay prostrate at his feet, with the excep-tion of Stirling, the defence of which had been intrust-ed by its governor, John De-Soulis, to Sir W. Olifant, a brave knight, who, on seeing the great preparations made by Edward against his feeble garrison, intimated to him that he could not, without forfeiting his knight-ly oaths and honour, surrender his charge; but that if the king would allow him, he would repair to France, where the Governor then was, and after having learned his pleasure, he would return and deliver up the castle, if permitted to do so. Edward, who loved chivalry, it was supposed would accede to this pro-posal, but his spirit was chafed at the obstinacy of the Scots, and he replied, "I will agree to no such thing;—if he will not surrender the castle, let him keep it against us at his peril." Accordingly Olifant, assisted by Sir W. Dupplin and other brave knights, proceeded to prepare the castle for the last extremities of a siege. Thirteen warlike engines had been brought by the besiegers to bear upon the walls, which project-ed leaden balls of great size, supplied by lead from the roof of the cathedral of St. Andrews, with huge stones and javelins, but for a long time the utmost efforts of the assailants produced no breach in the walls, while the sorties of the besieged and the dexterity with

which their engines were directed, made great havock in the English army. During all this, Edward, though now an old man, exposed his person with youthful rashness. Upon one of these occasions he was struck by a javelin thrown from the balistae; as it had not pierced his body, the king plucked it from his armour with his own hand, and shaking it in the air, called aloud that he would hang the villain who had hit him. Whilst the engines within the castle did so much execution, those of Edward had little effect, and when faggots and branches were thrown into the fosse to facilitate the assault, a sally from the castle succeeded in setting the whole in flames, and carried confusion and slaughter into the English lines.

A month had now elapsed and little impression had hitherto been made on the walls. But Edward, with his characteristic determination, wrote to the sheriffs of York, Lincoln, and London, commanding them to procure and send instantly to Stirling all the balistae, quarrells, bows, and arrows, they could collect; and to prevent his best soldiers from being absent from the siege, he absolutely prohibited all jousts and tournaments without his special licence. As he was aware that the garrison must soon be in want of provisions, he cut off all communication with the surrounding country, and gave orders for the employment of a new and dreadful instrument of destruction—the Greek fire. In addition to this he caused two immense machines to be constructed to overtop the walls, and capable of throwing stones of 300 lbs. weight. One of these, which did great execution, was called the Wolf by the

soldiers, perhaps in allusion to the well-known civic emblem of the burgh. "By means of these," continues Tytler, "a large breach was made in the two inner walls of the castle; and the outer ditch having been filled up with heaps of stones and faggots thrown into it, Edward ordered a general assault. The brave little garrison, which for three months had successfully resisted the whole strength of the English army, were now greatly reduced by famine and siege. Their provisions were exhausted. Thirteen women, the wives and sisters of the knights and barons who defended the place, were shut up, along with the garrison, and their distress and misery became extreme. In these circumstances, their walls cast down, the engines carrying the soldiers wheeled up to the breach, and the scaling ladders fixed on the parapet, a deputation was sent to Edward, with an offer to capitulate, on security of life and limb. This proposal the king met with contempt and scorn, but he agreed to treat on the terms of an unconditional surrender."

After the surrender of the castle a disgraceful scene took place, which exhibits the tyrannical disposition of Edward in a very hateful light. The king in princely state, surrounded by his nobles and warriors, commanded Sir William Olifant and twenty-five knights and gentlemen, his companions in the siege, in order to save their lives, to appear before him in a garb and posture from which every kind and generous feeling revolts. Their persons were stript to their shirts and drawers, their heads and feet were bare, their hair hung matted and dishevelled on their shoulders, and

thus, with clasped hands and bended knees, they implored the mercy of the king. Upon this Edward, of his royal clemency, exempted them from the ignominy of being chained; but Olifant was sent to the Tower, and the rest were imprisoned in different fortresses in England. The garrison was found to consist of no more than one hundred and forty soldiers—an incredibly small number, if we consider that for three months they had resisted the efforts of the flower of the army of England led by the king in person.* It was after Edward's return to London, and to the everlasting disgrace of that infamous monarch, that the indomitable Wallace "unsullied in fame and unconquered in spirit," having been betrayed into his hands, was carried to London in fetters, condemned and executed on the 23d of August, 1305. After this time, the English held an uninterrupted grasp of Stirling castle for ten years, when Bruce, the glorious successor in courage and in conduct to his precursor Wallace, reduced it to his obedience by gaining the ever-to-be-remembered victory of Bannockburn. Its last surrender was to Monck under Cromwell, in 1651; since which time it may be said, that the step of a foreign centinel has never echoed from its ramparts; and with the exception of the irregular and ill-conducted attack by the Highlanders, in 1746, it has slumbered on in as peaceful a tranquillity as the beautiful vales over which it so conspicuously presides.

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* Tytler's History of Scotland, Vol. I. Pages 205—211.

CHAP. III.

History of the Castle continued.

Happily, in these modern times, unacquainted with scenes of blood and turmoil, we feel partially relieved in proceeding to state that Stirling castle was also the scene of various important acts, civil as well as sacred:—Here was enacted, under Alexander II. that law annexed to the *Regiam Majestatem*, which established trial by jury. Here also William the Lion held a parliament for the payment of his ransom; and here, in the year 1212, that monarch died. It was, moreover, the scene of several parliaments and conventions, during the brief reign of John Baliol; and from it is dated the epistle which, with the advice of the States, that *inter-regnum* monarch wrote to the King of France, in 1295, containing proposals of marriage between young Baliol and a princess of that nation.

But though often visited by the Scottish monarchs in their erratic perambulations, the castle of Stirling became not a favorite royal residence till about the reign of James I. It was the birth-place, and for some time the minorial residence of James II.; and his son and successor James III. whom Pitscottie, in his quaint and amusing style, describes as delighting more in "music and policies of bigging than in the government of his realm," was particularly fond of Stir-

ling, where, says Drummond, he increased the buildings; repaired and embellished those that had fallen into decay; erected a spacious hall (the Parliament-house); and founded "a college for divine service, which he named the Chapell Royal." This "Chapell" was afterwards demolished by James VI. who on the same site erected the present one in 1594.

This castle too was frequently the residence of James IV., and witnessed both the birth and coronation of his son James V. by whom the place was highly ornamented and improved, he having constructed almost the whole of the present palace. His widow, Mary of Guise, continued to occupy it during her regency; and her ill-fated daughter, the lovely and lamented Mary, Queen of Scots, was crowned here in 1543, when scarcely nine months old. The only son of Darnley, and that unfortunate princess, afterwards James VI. was baptized here with much pomp and solemnity, on the 15th of December, 1566, where with little or no interruption he remained, under the preceptorship of George Buchanan, till he was thirteen years of age. This prince, when put in possession of the reins of government, held his first parliament in 1578, "in the great hall of the castle of Stirling," by preferring which to Edinburgh, many of the nobility were so highly displeased, that serious consequences were beginning to be apprehended. So great a jealousy existed between the King's attendants and the dissatisfied Lords, that troops were levied on both sides; but, ere hostilities had commenced, an accommodation was happily brought about, and a temporary tranquillity re-

stored. Anna, Princess of Denmark, and Queen of James VI. was on the 19th of February, 1593-4, delivered of her eldest son, Frederick Henry, in Stirling castle; and his baptism, one of the most fulsome pieces of pageantry ever seen in Scotland, took place here on the 30th of August following.

This fortress, it may not be unnecessary to remark, is one of the four in Scotland, which in terms of the Treaty of the Union are to be maintained as fortifications. In the reign of Queen Anne, (under whom the Union was effected,) its boundaries were considerably extended, though not to such a degree as was originally projected, the intended plan having been lost, and the work abruptly broken off. Since that time, therefore, it has undergone little external alteration, except,—as the indefatigable Mr. Chambers remarks, —"its being gradually rendered more and more a barrack for the accommodation of modern soldiers."

We will conclude our historical remarks on the castle by mentioning a singular circumstance connected with it, which we have hitherto found discussed at length and supported by proofs from ancient documents, only in Tytler's History of Scotland; but as he produces many proofs in support of what he advances, the matter may be looked upon as certain, viz.:—That Stirling castle was for a considerable number of years the residence of Richard II. of England. This monarch, it is well known, upon the successful usurpation of Henry IV. in the year 1399, was committed a prisoner to Pontefract castle, whence, according to Tytler, he had escaped, habited as a labourer, and playing the part of a

madman. In this guise he contrived to reach the Hebrides, and was discovered at the court of the Lord of the Isles by a lady, and, according to another account, a jester also, who had known him in the days of his prosperity as King of England.* The Lord of the Isles handed him over to Lord Montgomery, who again committed him to the care of the Duke of Albany, who was Governor of Scotland, under his brother Robert III. and who, being an intriguing and ambitious man, was desirous of usurping his brother's throne at his death, as Henry IV. had usurped that of Richard II. About this time Albany had succeeded in putting to death David Duke of Rothsay, Robert's eldest son, and thus removed one obstacle that stood in the way of his ambitious aim; and had it not been for the disinterested zeal of Fleming of Cumber-

* Lest any of our readers should, from the present insignificant political status of the Western Isles, think, that it was a very round about and consequently a very unlikely way for the dethroned King of England to seek for safety, these individuals must remember that for some centuries about this time, the Lords of the Isles affected independence of the Scottish monarchs, and were sometimes treated upon something like a footing of equality by the English King; who in the pursuit of his ambitious projects for conquering Scotland, and reducing it to be a province of his monarchy, encouraged the great vassals of Scotland in their rebellious attempts against their own lawful sovereigns, so that the story of Richard's being discovered by a lady is far from being unworthy of belief, as the Lord of the Isles had in all likelihood treated with this very Richard, or at least with his grandfather Edward III. whom Richard, the subject of our present remarks, succeeded; his own father, the heroic Black Prince, being dead.

nauld and others, he would have sacrificed to his unbounded selfishness, James, who was afterwards James I. and certainly one of the very best of our Scottish monarchs. However, his friends succeeded in getting him on board of a vessel with the intention of sending him for safety to the court of France; but by a singular coincidence, the vessel was compelled by stress of weather to take refuge in England, where Henry IV. aware of the prize he had got, kept James a prisoner for 19 years: and thus these two ambitious men could play into each other's hands, the one being in possession of the heir apparent to the throne, and the other of the real king. Richard died about the year 1419, and was buried in the monastery of the Dominicans, or preaching friars, which is understood to have been erected upon the piece of ground now called Spring Garden,* at the bottom of Friar's Wynd.

Bower, the continuator of Fordun, affirms the death of Richard II. at Stirling, in the following words, and accompanies his affirmation, with the valuable edition of the monkish or leonine epitaph inscribed above his tomb:—"Richard the Second, King of England, died in the aforesaid year (1419), and was buried on the Feast of St. Lucie the Virgin, on the north side of the

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* In case it should be neglected elsewhere, it may be as well to mention here that in this garden there is an apple, called, from the monks, its former cultivators, *Friar's Pippin*. A tree is pointed out which is ignorantly supposed to be the original stock of this apple. From the appearance of the tree this is impossible.

high altar of the Preaching Friars;" above whose royal image there painted, it is thus written :

> "Angliæ Ricardus jacet hic rex ipse sepultus.
> Loncaste quem Dux dejecit arte, mota prodicione
> Prodicione potens, sceptro potitur iniquo.
> Supplicium luit hunc ipsius omne genus.
> Ricardum inferis hunc Scotia sustulit annis
> Qui caustro Striveling vite peregit iter
> Anno milleno quaterceno quoque deno
> Et nono Christi regis finis fuit iste."

As the church of the Dominicans has been destroyed long ago, the epitaph cannot now be verified. It existed however in the time of Hector Boece, who mentions the inscription as being visible in his day.

CHAP. IV.

Outline of the History of the Town.

That the importance of the castle gave first rise to the town it would be vain to question; but regarding its early condition, or, indeed, for a long time its subsequent progress, we can obtain little satisfactory information. It may be worthy of remark here, as it is one very frequently made by Chalmers in his "Caledonia," that the aborigines of Scotland were not a town-building and consequently not a town-inhabiting race. Indeed the Celtic people never appear to have been a gregarious people, but loved the seclusion of rural life, and the employment of the shepherd; and our Scottish towns did not augment in population until the Celtic people were displaced, and the Saxons from England, and Flemings from the Low countries, had assumed their place; yet, ere the Celts had retreated, a number of our present towns had evidently been hamlets, such as we see even now in the Highlands, inhabited by these people. For it is a singular fact that the most of our towns still retain their Gaelic appellations, although the names of almost all the streets are English.

Even at so early a period as the death of Alexander I. Stirling was not only a town but also a royal burgh, and constituted, along with Edinburgh, Ber-

wick, and Roxburgh, the only four burghs then in Scotland. As Berwick has long been disjoined from Scotland, and Roxburgh as a burgh does not now exist,—Edinburgh and Stirling form the only two original royal burghs in Scotland. From any thing that appears in history, Stirling seems always to have been a free burgh, and never held under any other superior than the king. Some of our burghs, it is well known, owed feudal servitude for shorter or longer periods to certain barons or ecclesiastical foundations before they became royal burghs. If ever Stirling was in this situation, the knowledge of it is lost in the obscurity of antiquity.

But Stirling must be considerably older than 1124, the year in which the demise of Alexander I. took place, as a charter was granted by that monarch himself,—supposed to be dated 1119,—and as this charter merely confers some additional privileges on the burghers and freemen,—not being what is styled a writ of erection,—it may safely be inferred that it was constituted a royal burgh a considerable time before the period to which we have alluded.

From the year 1124 to the period of the death of Alexander III. Stirling, along with many other towns in Scotland, seems to have enjoyed a great degree of prosperity; so much so, indeed, that next to Perth, it appears to have possessed a larger share of foreign trade than any other town in the kingdom. If any of our readers shall doubt this, we refer them to Chalmers' Caledonia for the proof—while we produce one or two reasons which will prevent the assertion

from appearing to wear so much of improbability as at first sight it may assume. Stirling and Perth are well known, both of them, to be situated at considerable distances from the sea, and are placed upon rivers obstructed by formidable fords, and consequently the idea that these places enjoyed what was then a large share of trade, appears quite absurd. Now this is not so improbable as may at first sight appear, for it is to be remembered that the vessels used in those days were, in size, nothing like those we have now. It is much later than the period now spoken of, before you read of any ship coming up to 100 tons burthen, and the vessels used did not probably exceed from 20 to 50 tons, consequently they were perfectly fitted for navigating the rivers upon which the towns are situated. Again,—the residence of the court at the two places renders it highly probable that the assertions of our chroniclers are not wide of the truth, as in consequence of this circumstance, these towns would be the places where much of the wealth of the country would be expended, and besides, the wealthy religious establishment at Cambuskenneth would give a spur to the industry of Stirling—for it is certain that the monks of those days, as they engrossed all the knowledge of the period, so they applied that knowledge to the pursuit of merchandise as well as to that of agriculture and religion. But there is a better reason than any of the foregoing, for trade centring in such places as Stirling and Perth. The towns upon the sea-coast were very insecure places during the tenth and eleventh centuries, inasmuch as they lay exposed, in a greater de-

gree, to the attacks and ravishments of the Danish and Norwegian pirates, who, under the barbarous epithet of *Vikingr*, prowled continually about the coasts of Scotland, laying the whole country, to a considerable distance from the sea, under perpetual terror of their devastations. In these circumstances it became a matter of paramount importance to have the trade of the country removed as far inland as the nature of the case would admit. During all the period, from the death of Alexander I. until the death of Alexander III. embracing nearly 160 years, Scotland enjoyed a season of prosperity, unequalled at any time in the very chequered annals of our country, and which exhibits a bright contrast to the gloomy period which succeeded, and which continued without much intermission for the space of 400 years, interspersed only by alternations of one species of misery in place of another, with few and far between glimpses of delusive prosperity until the time of the Union in 1707. These things, however, belong rather to the general history of Scotland, than to any particular section of the country, although Stirling, from its local and commanding situation, certainly partook of the general misery to a greater extent than many other districts which were less exposed.

It has been already noticed that Stirling along with Edinburgh, Berwick, and Roxburgh, formed, at the death of Alexander I. the only four royal burghs then in Scotland. It is now further to be remarked that these burghs had, even at this early period, a particular privilege which was common to the whole of them,

and which was called the court of the four burghs;—and it appears that a meeting of that body was held in Stirling in October 1405, when various laws were enacted concerning "the internal order of burghs, and the qualifications of burgesses." This court, however, met, in general, at Haddington, and was presided over by a chancellor of their own choosing. The court had a jurisdiction over any other burghs that might be added to their number, and during the period already mentioned, a great number were created. The court also took under its management and protection the affairs of the general trade of the kingdom, and was accountable to none but the king. As Berwick and Roxburgh, from their local situation, were likely often to be in the hands of their enemies, when this should happen, David I. appointed that Lanark and Linlithgow should take their place. This is evidently the foundation of the Convention of Royal Burghs. I hope sincerely that this ancient institution will not be voluntarily broken up, if it should be kept merely for form's-sake, for it points to old Scotland in her better days. A reflecting mind will perceive here the anxiety and care of our early monarchs, for the liberty of their subjects, and also the struggle they were making against that feudal anarchy which had at this period become completely established in England, and was beginning to extend its desolating sway into the comparatively free and happy kingdom of Scotland,—and our history affords too many sad proofs of its chaotic and anarchical confusion for the next 400 years.

Notwithstanding our previous cursory remarks, which we admit are to be taken as partly speculative, it must be acknowledged that regarding the size or prosperity of Stirling for many ages, we are left in comparative darkness. The Council records carry us no farther back than 1597, about which period the castle having become the principal royal residence of the unfortunate Stewarts, a considerable impulse must have been given to the prosperity of the town. There is one point however, viz. its population, of which, for many generations, we are entirely ignorant. Whether the town in this respect, may have retrograded after the castle ceased to be the residence of the court, or what the number of the inhabitants at that time may have been, it is now impossible to determine. The earliest account we have of the population of Stirling is so very recent as 1755, the census then being 3951. Since that time, in number of inhabitants, it has steadily and gradually increased. In 1792 the population was 4698; in 1801, 5256; in 1811, nearly 5810; in 1821, 7113; and according to the last census (1831) the estimation was 8556.

While the town of Stirling has witnessed several important civil as well as ecclesiastical transactions, like its foster-parent, the castle, it has been the scene of many hostile feuds and deadly contentions; and on several occasions was it a prey to the ravaging influence of conflagration:—

Fordun remarks that in March, 1244, Stirling, along with Haddington, Roxburgh, Lanark, Perth, Forfar, Montrose, and Aberdeen, were all accidentally con-

sumed by fire in the same night. In little more than half a century thereafter, it was reduced to ashes by Wallace in his retreat from the battle of Falkirk in 1298; again, according to Froissart, was it similarly destroyed by Richard II. in 1385; and in 1452, the Douglases,—in revenge of a direct violation of a writ of safety granted by James II. to William, the eighth Earl of that name —after an ineffectual attempt to become masters of the castle, plundered the town, and laid great part of it in ashes.

After the Raid of Ruthven, as it is called, a conspiracy entered into by the Earls of Angus and Marr, Glammis and others, by which James VI. was forcibly detained at Ruthven house, with a view to induce him to banish from his presence some favourites who had become obnoxious to the nobles of the realm,—the conspirators took possession of the town and castle of Stirling in 1584. They were soon however compelled to fly to England, where having remained till the following year under sentence of forfeiture, they returned with an additional force, and again made themselves masters of the town. Preparing to invest the castle, which at the time was incapable of defence, a treaty was by both parties readily agreed to; and the mutinous lords obtaining access to the royal presence, begged for, and not only procured pardon, but had their estates restored, and afterwards enjoyed much of their sovereign's favour.

In 1637, on the commotion at Edinburgh, occasioned by Charles I.'s determined attempt to introduce the liturgy into the public worship of Scotland, the Privy

Council and Court of Session, were, by that monarch's orders, removed to Stirling, and held their sittings here for several months.

Stirling was also the temporary seat of the Scottish parliament in 1645. Edinburgh, during that year, was visited by a most destructive pestilence which had come from England, and in consequence that august assembly removed hither; but being overtaken by the dreadful scourge, they immediately adjourned to Perth. In Stirling the malady raged with appalling violence from the month of July till the following October, during which period the town council held their meetings in the open fields. Tents were erected for the patients at the north end of the bridge, beyond the precincts of the town, and every means resorted to that could tend to their comfort or relief. No less than six members of the town council fell victims to their active humanity on that mournful occasion, some of whose grave-stones are still visible in the churchyard, crumbling also into dust, like the remains of those whose memory they are so vainly endeavouring to uphold.

The foregoing are but a few of the many important events that characterize the history of Stirling; and have been introduced previous to our analytical survey of the town, from their connection with it as a whole, and being unconfined to any particular spot. Some striking circumstances have yet to be recorded; but these we have reserved until the scene in which they occurred come under our actual observation, purposing to give each feature in the picture we are about to ex-

hibit, a relative degree of interest in the eyes of those to whom we mean to act as Cicerone, in comparison to the importance of the exploits of which it was the particular subject.

MODERN ANECDOTES.—*Provost Anderson.*

Monotonous as is the stream of human affairs in general, and in a small provincial town in particular, yet there does occasionally an individual appear whose singularities attract the public attention more than the even course of his compeers in the same place, and stamp him with the designation of an Eccentric. Such a man was Provost Anderson, well known for many years as the only agent the king's printers in Edinburgh had for the sale of their bibles, &c. in the west of Scotland,—he was permitted, without molestation, also to print shorter and proof catechisms, and the book of proverbs as school-books—a permission which the jealousy of monopoly is not likely to suffer any other person to enjoy in future,—and as well known during a number of the latter years of his long life as the regular president in the dining-room of the inn at the Bridge of Earn, near Pitcaithly. The provost and another brother and sister were all the offspring of one birth, and all arrived at the years of maturity; nor is it now remembered if his mother had any other children. The brother, however, while yet a young man, fell into a well and was choked. The sister died only this year, 1835. The provost was educated upon the funds of Allan's hospital, and then apprenticed to a

bookseller. After having learned this profession, he carried it on in his native place in such a manner as to obtain a much larger share of business, as well as a more extensive connection with the *trade*, than usually happens in the lot of a provincial bookseller. He had for many years before his death been the oldest bookseller in Scotland, and being universally esteemed, a number of the *trade* presented him with his own portrait, which was striking in with his vein so completely as to afford him great satisfaction. It was afterwards engraved and widely circulated. A copy of the engraving was purchased by his successor in business, and being richly gilded, was suspended in the shop—a circumstance which pleased the provost so much that few days passed that he did not call in to see it. Upon one of these occasions a smart young bagman was in the shop, who, having his attention particularly attracted by the singularly gruff and even somewhat uncouth figure before him, exclaimed "What ugly old fellow is that?" and then casting his eye upon the living original, said, with an air of *nonchalance*, "it seems very like you, Sir." The provost, instead of being pleased at the accuracy of the engraving, went away muttering something about the silly, impertinent Cockney. The worthy provost, in one of his tastes, resembled the no less gruff but more stern Dr. Johnson, for he thought it a great luxury to be wheeled along the road in a post-chaise; however being no great company to himself, he liked to be attended, upon these occasions, by some of the juniors of the place, and as he was accounted rich, and had few

heirs, he found no difficulty in procuring agreeable companions. The greatest pleasure which the provost enjoyed in his latter years was his regular annual sojourn of two months at the Bridge of Earn. Here he was quite the lion of the place, and held for a number of years the dignity of president, whatever might be the rank of the parties present at the public dining-table. This to him was to enjoy life in perfection, and formed the very highest item in his estimate of human blessedness. In the words of Addison, when describing Sir Roger De-Coverly—"there was," although he was near fourscore, "such a mirthful cast in his behaviour that he was rather beloved than esteemed. All the young women made love to him, and the young men were glad of his company."

Among his other dignities, the provost was also for many years a justice of the peace. It was when, upon one occasion, he was enthroned as president among his brother justices, that the demerits of certain subscribers, upon some public occasion, who had not implemented their subscriptions, were to be called over in open court, with the intention of affronting them out of their money, that the worthy provost, very anxious every person should hear the names of the delinquents, had just ordered silence, and called upon the clerk to proceed. This functionary, who was a bit of a wag, rose, and after clearing his throat, with a decorous hem, read in a slow and sonorous tone, calculated to give effect to his words—"William Anderson, Esq. Provost of Stirling, and Justice of the Peace." "Whisht, whisht, Sir,—what's that you are

saying? There is your two guineas, and let us hear no more of that."

In municipal politics the provost was liberal according to the narrow kind of policy of his day, and in national and electioneering politics he was decidedly ministerial, charitably believing that as the ministry was the choice of the King, it was always well chosen, and that it was the duty as well as the interest of a royal burgh to support the ministry of the day, because then he concluded he was supporting the constitution; nevertheless no man ever suspected the provost of lending himself to the practices of bribery and corruption. He was above such a suspicion, and was honestly a conformer.

As a magistrate the provost had one qualification of great public value. He was an excellent "Buff the Beggar," for although himself educated upon charity, he heartily hated a poor man, and considered poverty as a crime, and therefore exerted himself to put it down. At ten every forenoon he appeared in Broad Street, and with a formidable sloethorn cudgel over his shoulder, backed with his singularly forbidding countenance, surrounded with a grotesque drapery of grizzled locks, the back part of which was tied in a queue, he was the terror of the mendicant, and with laudable impartiality chased sc rners and beggars of every class from the purlieus of his favourite haunt.

He was five times elected provost in his native burgh, during the 60 years he was dabbling in municipal politics. When the burgh was disfranchised, he actively exerted himself to bring about this desirable

result, and succeeded much to the benefit of the public charities of the place. The most singular idea that the provost cherished, and for a long series of years was, that he might die provost; and the reason he assigned for this was as preposterous as the wish itself was extravagant, viz. that the procession at his funeral would be the finest thing in the world.—"Bless you, Sir," he said to a friend when conversing upon the subject—"only think what a fine thing it will be for the whole Town Council, and the town-clerk with his ink-horn, preceded by the town-officers, and followed by the constables, with the guildry and seven trades, and myself the principal person in the cavalcade." So entirely was the man's mind engrossed with this absurd idea, that it is only surprising he did not wish, like Charles V., to see his funeral obsequies enacted while he was still alive. However, to gratify his wish, the whole pantomime was actually exhibited before the public gaze, and thus was turned into ridicule the most serious transaction connected with our earthly pilgrimage. As if in order to exaggerate this curious conceit, a pompous programme was drawn up of the order of procession, in which the seven trades are introduced in the following manner:—1st, The officer of the trade; 2d, The members of the incorporation, *four* and *four*; 3d, The old deacon of the trade; and this pomposity is observed when speaking of the skinners and fleshers, when it is well known that at that time these two trades consisted only of *two* members each.

A Love Story.

In the modern history of our town an incident has occurred so romantic in itself, and so interesting in its nature, as to confer upon the story,—which is true to the letter, with the exception of the names of the actors,—a high degree of pathos. Had the persons concerned in this little local drama figured in elevated circumstances, as they happened to be in the opposite, it would undoubtedly have been blazoned abroad as the veriest Quixotism of love, and the parties would have been seized upon as the *dramatis personæ* of a play or romance, founded upon fact.

Within the last three years,—from the date of this little book,—there happened to come to reside in the immediate neighbourhood of Stirling a genteel family who had in their employ, as a kind of upper servant, a beautiful and charming girl, whom we shall designate Mary Fairfax, and who, we understand, is of English extraction. After having attended for a number of Sabbath-days in the place where the family worshipped, Mary had the fortune or rather misfortune to attract the attention, and ultimately to call forth the love of two young men, who were brothers, but very dissimilar in their characters and modes of living. The elder, whom we shall denominate Allan, was a shoemaker; and the younger, whom we shall call John, had been bred as an apprentice to a draper, but was now a teacher in a small country school in the vicinity. Al-

Ian was a very worthy and exemplary trades-lad, busying himself constantly with his work, and appearing in a garb very much above the ordinary standard of the *craft*. His moral character was excellent, and his employer could entrust his work to Allan in the just confidence that it would be finished by the time specified, and in a workman-like manner. He was never found in the public-house, but contributed largely to the support of his aged parents, and found his reward in the conviction that he was fulfilling both a natural and a christian duty, as well as in the blessing of the aged pair, who are now feeling keenly the absence of Allan's industry. There was one peculiarity, however, in Allan's temperament, which pointed him out as somewhat of an eccentric. He loved to be much alone, and might have passed for being a little tinged with misanthropy, had not his practical attention to his parents, in their declining years, contradicted this idea. Certain it is that he never kept company with persons of the same occupation, or of the same age as himself, and seldom with persons of any age. When he was seen abroad it was invariably by himself, and engaged apparently in deep thought. In short, he was a quiet, unostentatious enthusiast, and acted accordingly.

The teacher was not altogether the opposite of Allan, but something approaching to it. Decidedly immoral he was not, yet had he a deep tinge of the ordinary and general character of his class in society. Of a more social disposition than Allan, he knew more of the ways of the world, and could recommend himself with more plausibility to the heart of a susceptible and

unsuspecting girl, to whom both the brothers were alike strangers. Allan,—from his habitual thrift, accompanied with less expensive habits,—had always plenty of money, and more, a good deal, than his necessities required; while the pockets of John were more narrowly searched, and could with difficulty supply the daily waste created by a less rigid economy, and furnished by a less profitable employment. John was occasionally in debt, and Allan sometimes assisted him in his difficulties. In short, although Allan and John were brothers, they in nothing else resembled each other. John knew how to make himself agreeable to his mistress, and Allan knew that if she were once his wife, he could support her, which the other could not;—but of all this Mary was quite ignorant, and fatally formed her judgment from external appearance.

Such were the two young men who had, unconsciously to each other, fixed their love upon Mary Fairfax. The mode of cherishing and of expressing this pleasing but frequently delusive passion, was,—as might have been anticipated, had the true state of the case been previously known to an observant onlooker,—exactly in correspondence with the turn of mind possessed by each. John made up to the object of his passion, and explained to her his feelings, and was requited with her love in return. Allan, in accordance with the enthusiasm of his character, erected Mary into an object of adoration, dwelling with delight upon the perfections, fanciful or real, of his mistress—concealing his passion, and thus suffering it to dry up the springs

of vitality. His eye and his whole demeanour, while in the presence of the intensely beloved object, bespoke his distress—but it was long, very long, ere he could muster courage to hint, and it is feared but awkwardly and obscurely, to Mary, that he loved her. Nay, it is questionable if she ever learned as much until it was fatally too late. For long ere Allan had begun ostensibly his approaches to Mary's heart, John had carried it by a *coup-de-main*, and secured it. As John's love had been made in due form, so the courtship began to draw to a close, and a day was fixed for giving in the names to the session-clerk for the proclamation of the banns—although, as Allan had foreseen, there had none or very slender preparations been made for future comfort: nor, in the nature of the case, could any thing like regular preparations be made, at least by John, who had nothing.

As lodging the names for proclamation is very frequently accomplished by proxy, so was it upon this occasion,—and John, who knew nothing and suspected as little about his brother's love, selected him as his substitute. Allan being intrusted with this, in his present state of mind, very ticklish subject, began to reason upon the propriety of what he was requested to perform, and these reasonings, although blinded by love and stimulated by the honourable desire of possessing Mary as his wife, were not unreasonable; for he concluded, and very justly, that something more than love was necessary for the comfortable maintenance of married people, and as he knew John's habits to be improvident, and his means of support to

be very inadequate, he could not see what his brother intended to do for the future maintenance of his wife. Did he wish to render that woman, whom of all others he himself loved so tenderly, utterly miserable? for Allan well knew that, among poor callings, that of a poor unendowed schoolmaster is the most wretched. He therefore resolved that in place of lodging John's name he would substitute his own, and that, too, without the consent of Mary being asked. Accordingly the banns were proclaimed in the names of Allan —— and Mary Fairfax. Mary, however, refused decidedly to agree to this mode of marrying by proxy, and would not, upon any terms, listen to what she deemed the impertinent and selfish arguments of Allan. Little did the poor girl think that her refusal would inflict so mortal a wound, and her partiality for John, who had, in the eye of a pretty but inexperienced girl, a more pleasing exterior, prevented her from duly estimating the deeply enthusiastic mind of his brother. In a few weeks John and Mary were married. This to Allan was a fatal event. From that day he resolutely refused to work. There was now to him no object in the world worth toiling for. His parents and his own outward appearance were alike neglected, and disappointed love preyed upon his mind and withered up his heart. His health declined daily, and in a few weeks this victim of unrequited love fell into a decided melancholy, and sternly refused to take food. The congregation with which he worshipped, much to their honour, subscribed a considerable sum for supporting him in an asylum, in the hope that the lapse of time

would wear away the poignancy of his feelings, and that he would soon again be restored to his wonted health; but the wound was too deep, for he lingered only a few days. John went to Glasgow and brought him home a corpse. This was in the summer of 1834, only a few weeks after the fatal marriage, and now in the spring of 1835, John is in his grave beside his brother, and Mary is reft by the hand of death of both her lovers.

CHAP. V.

MUNICIPAL.

Stirling, as we have already seen, first emerges from obscurity in the shape of a royal burgh, and as the occasional residence of the Scottish kings, and with the exception, if even it may be excepted, of Edinburgh, claims precedence, in point of antiquity, of all the other Scottish burghs. It is governed by a provost, who is high sheriff within the burgh, four bailies, who are sheriffs, a treasurer, and a person appointed annually by the town council to perform the duties heretofore devolving upon the dean of guild, and fourteen councillors, all chosen now according to the terms of the burgh reform bill, by those persons within the burgh who hold the elective franchise in voting for a representative to the Commons' House of Parliament, with this exception—that those among the electors who derive any charitable assistance from the funds of any of the endowments of the town, have no vote in the choice of the municipality; and this, in the case of Stirling, is a wise regulation, as it prevents persons from being influenced in tendering their votes by the amount of assistance their necessities may require from the funds of its extensive charities. Besides these councillors there is a town-clerk, who is the legal assessor of the town council, and who is understood, in the present state of the law, to be chosen for life. This is certain-

ly a faulty part of the present burgh laws, as it prevents the municipality from availing themselves of the best legal assistance and advice which the place, whatever it may be, can provide; and has a tendency, moreover, to give the public servant something of a certain tone of *hauteur*, very unbecoming in his situation. The provost, bailies, treasurer, and other nameless functionary, are chosen by the council, after it has been partially re-modelled, upon the first Tuesday of November. The provost and treasurer hold their situations, by law, for three years, and the bailies and the other functionary for the term they are legally members of the council, and no more. One-third of the entire council, in terms of the burgh reform bill, retire every year, and their places are filled up by a new election.

Among the four bailies, whatever may be the place of their own residence, the town is divided into four districts, or wards, over which one of the bailies presides, and is responsible for the keeping of the peace within the bounds thereof. It is his duty to attend also within his district upon the occasion of any accident by fire or other public disturbance. In this part of their duty the magistrates are very effectively assisted by a regularly organised body, called the high constables, who are governed by a captain, two lieutenants, a treasurer, and secretary—the whole, including the office-bearers, amounting to thirty-six, and acting voluntarily up to the letter to a set of printed regulations presented to them by the magistrates, under whose control they are placed. This body is highly respect-

able, and enjoys the entire confidence, not only of the magistrates, but also of the public, who promptly lend their assistance upon any emergency, which, however, very rarely is required. The society dines together, annually, upon Christmas-day. It is unquestionably to this active body of men, as well as to the excellent education afforded by Allan's and Cunningham's endowments, and the numerous churches in the town which afford abundance of accommodation to the poorest inhabitants, that the high standard of morality among the people is to be attributed. Chambers then, in his Gazetteer of Scotland, might have spared himself, and his readers, the sneer—that Stirling is accounted by the inhabitants of neighbouring towns a place of extraordinary piety—for he may be assured that without plenty of good and cheap religion there will be little public morality, as religion is the basis of morality; and we can assure him and our readers that this activity of our magistrates and high constables is not exercised in such a manner as to break in upon the charities of private life, but with a tact and good sense which elicit the unqualified approbation of the community. Before Mr. Chambers ventures upon such sneering language as he is in the habit of sometimes using, concerning communities, he should correct the grossest idea we ever saw in print, written by himself in his description of Strathmore, in his Picture of Scotland, 1st and 2d editions. Besides the constables there are eight of the inhabitants who mount guard each night, following each other, until it go round the whole community, when it begins again. There is a serjeant

appointed who has the constant command of the night guard, and has a regular salary. The inhabitants mostly perform this duty by substitute, which answers pretty well, as there is very seldom any public disturbance: and shop and house-breaking are known only by name. At fairs and other great assemblages of people a very vigilant police is maintained, and the consequence has been, that for many years no such thing as pocket-picking has been known to have happened.

The bailies, each in his turn, sits in the town-clerk's chambers daily, deciding police and other cases, attending to applications for relief, and various other things requiring the assistance of a magistrate. The office of treasurer is merely nominal, all his duties being performed by the town's chamberlain, who has a salary. The duties of the nameless functionary seem to be falling into disuetude, and will certainly soon devolve upon the provost and bailies who are the really efficient magistrates. The town council meets periodically in a room in the town-house called the council chambers, and kept exclusively for this purpose, upon the third Monday of every month, but this is found to be too seldom for the multifarious transactions which press themselves upon their notice, and claim their direct interference. Accordingly extraordinary are very frequent, and even exceed in number the ordinary meetings. The cause of so many meetings will be easily understood, when it is remembered that the council are the patrons of so many institutions, all having great and very urgent claims for immediate and unceasing attention. 1st, The disbursement of the

public money, or what is more strictly called the town's funds. 2d, Spittal's hospital. 3d, Cowan's hospital. 4th, Allan's hospital; and 5th, Cunningham's mortification. We shall take some notice of these in order.

1st, *The Public Funds.*—These funds are derived from the customs at the Bridge and *Port*, the markets, the shore, and the fisheries, and upon an average may be fairly estimated at from £2600 to £3000 annually. The collection and payment of this money is, under the control of the council, committed to the chamberlain, who has to find sufficient security to the council for his intromissions, and who is commonly a respectable legal practitioner, and generally holds his office for two years, although elected annually, and may be continued for any length of time at the pleasure of the council. The charges upon this fund are ministers' stipends —salaries to schoolmasters,—lighting the streets,—fetching water into the town—repairing and renewing the streets,—and keeping up the jail, and supplying the prisoners with every necessary, and also the salary to the jailor. Upon this part of the public expenditure the county of Clackmannan bears some small part of the expence, but we believe the county of Stirling pays not a farthing. Nay, farther, the county has not even a house to meet in, in the county town, but must be indebted to the town council for a place to hold their quarterly and other meetings. Even the very room, and which is a fine one, in which the circuit court holds its sittings, belongs exclusively to the burgh. Upon this enumeration of particulars on which the public money is expended, many of the inhabitants

of the *neighbouring towns* may look with a degree of envy, when they consider that they are so heavily taxed in the shape of an assessment for the defraying of those expenses which the good sense of the people of Stirling contrives to discharge without costing their fellow-townsmen a single farthing. It has ever been a favorite object with the people here to prevent an assessment, well knowing that however beautiful the situation of the town, very much of the pleasure of living in Stirling would be done away with, were the people heavily taxed. They have resolved that as they cannot compel beauty to remain beside utility, they will place utility beside beauty, and thus accomplish the two desirable objects in a comfortable residence. It is true that our public streets have been for a long series of years a reproach to our town, but this carelessness is now past, and the town council has firmly resolved that every farthing of the public money which can be spared shall be strictly appropriated to render useful, and then to beautify and adorn the public streets, so that in a few years, as our town is as well lighted, so the streets shall be as well paved, as any in the kingdom; and all this without costing the inhabitants any thing except what they please to contribute. And it is gratifying to be able to add that since the call has been made, they have responded to it with zeal and alacrity, knowing that a good use will be made of the money. Let the inhabitants of the neighbouring towns, with the author of the Picture of Scotland at their head, look at this, and then they will perceive that they have more cause to regret the difficulty of

their own circumstances than to sneer at the extraordinary piety, accompanied as it is in the people of Stirling, with so much good sense and practical wisdom.

2d, *Spittal's Hospital.*—This is an endowment which was left by Robert Spittal, tailor to James IV. for the support of decayed members of the seven incorporated trades. The amount of the sum or the exact time of its bequeathment, and even the direct object intended by the donor are not known; only there is reason to believe that it was the design of Spittal that the objects of his charity should reside together and wear a particular dress.* From this the hospital seems to have been originally intended for an alms-house, but as this is a mode of receiving charity alien to the feelings of the Scottish people, the original intention has been changed, and the poor receive a weekly allowance at their own houses. This sum is greatly less than it was some years ago, owing to a very injudicious purchase of landed property, and also owing to there having been too many pensioners receiving charity, for the purpose of forwarding certain political schemes, from eight to sixteen years ago. The weekly allowance amounts to from 1s. to 1s. 9d. per week. This is the more to be regretted as the number of poor people entitled to receive assistance is very great; but this cannot be helped, for if the council would ever wish to retrieve the affairs of the charity, the funds must be husbanded. The annual income of the hospital amounts to about £700. In its present reduced state it costs the town council

* See Notes at the end of the Chapter.

very little trouble, almost every fresh application being rejected whenever it is mentioned.—Town council alone, patrons.

3d, *Cowan's Hospital.*—This charity originated in John Cowan, merchant in Stirling, bequeathing, in the year 1635, the sum of 40,000 merks or £2222 4s 5⅓d. for the decent maintenance of twelve, or such other smaller number of decayed members of the incorporation of guildry as could be comfortably maintained from the interest of the money endowed. Accordingly a house was built, and an attempt made to fulfil the wishes of the testator; but the same causes operated here as in Spittal's hospital, and it was soon discovered that persons would rather suffer extreme penury at home than confine themselves in an alms-house. However, as the town council had in this case a written will which they justly deemed binding upon them, they could not, as in the case of Spittal's endowment, whose will, even at this early period, seems to have been lost, avowedly depart from the letter of Cowan's testament. The consequence is, that the funds of the endowment have been accumulated to a great extent, and laid out in the purchase of land, whose gross rental now amounts to a few pounds under or over £3000 yearly, according as corn sells, for the farms are all let upon estimated grain rents—seeing that for the reason mentioned above, nothing of any great importance could be done with the funds of the charity except accumulation; and that the persons entitled to claim eleemosynary aid were willing to take a small sum weekly, to be allowed to remain at home, and

that the guildry were agreed to dispose of the money in this way, the town council resolved, many years ago, to adopt this method, charitably hoping that while the proper objects of the charity would be satisfied, a great many more of the comparatively poor connected with the incorporation, would have the narrowness of their circumstances greatly alleviated, while the benevolent intentions of John Cowan would not in their spirit be departed from. The result has been that many hundreds of the aged, the sick, of widows and orphans, have had reason to be thankful for this well-judged and gradually brought about change in the destination of Cowan's money. There are at present about 180 persons, male and female, young and old, receiving very effective aid from this fund; the weekly sums paid being from 2s. to 6s. per week; those receiving 6s. being the proper objects of the charity are not numerous. This state of things has now continued for a long series of years, and has latterly received the sanction of the Court of Session, without having been called in question, until very lately that a wretch called M'Kinlay,—himself a recipient of the bounty to the amount of 5s. per week, although perfectly able to work,—has induced the good-natured, although we fear credulous, Sir Wm. Rae, late Lord Advocate, to bring the matter before the House of Commons, who have, in consequence of the reiterated representations of Sir William, ordered returns, which must be made up at great expence, of the entire economy of the institution for the last six years, to be laid before the house. As the expence of these returns is an appro-

priation of the funds, quite foreign to the intentions of the donor,—the town council, who, along with the first minister, are the exclusive patrons, feel themselves pressed upon the one hand by the House of Commons, and on the other by the spirit of John Cowan's will—which implies, that the entire money should be expended in charity; no mention being made of any expences which may be incurred in the employment of accountants. What this selfish and hard hearted man M'Kinlay, may anticipate as the consequence of this ill-judged attempt, we cannot devise; for even the authority of the House of Commons cannot deprive the town council of their patronage—and it is very questionable, in these circumstances, if any council in future would ever choose M'Kinlay as one of the resident paupers, supposing the legislature should order the patrons to recur to the original appointment of an alms-house. He will then have the satisfaction to discover that in place of his receiving 5s. weekly, he will not get five farthings, and have superadded to this the curse of the widow and the orphan.

The hospital, notwithstanding its flourishing state, is in debt to the amount of £19,000, chiefly for the purchase of landed property, for which it pays $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. This debt is gradually discharging,—thus leaving a larger sum to be disbursed among those who have a claim upon the fund. After the payment of the interest—the support of the poor—the discharging of public burdens, and the expences of management, and the keeping up and in good repair the steadings upon the farms,—the remainder of the money goes to the

liquidation of the debt. Its affairs are managed by a factor, appointed by the council, who has a salary of £50, and is chosen annually, but generally holds the situation for two years, although it may be held for a longer period at the pleasure of the council. This charity, from the foregoing statement, will be perceived to have been under excellent management,—its funds, so far as is known, having never been tampered with to promote party or political purposes, as the guildry have always had a majority in the municipality, and being the most intelligent and respectable part of the community, and the great body of them the least likely to require any assistance from the funds of the hospital,—yet have they watched over its interests with as intense an anxiety as if they themselves anticipated, upon some future occasion, to need its assistance. This good management may be easily predicated, when it is considered that exclusive of the interest of the debt the yearly income somewhat exceeds the entire sum mortified by John Cowan, exactly 200 years ago, this year 1835. The only fear now is that the hospital may become too rich. To entitle any man to have a claim upon this admirable charity, he must enter with the incorporation of guildry, which costs £60, besides burgess fees, and he must have goods in his shop, his own property, or money, to the amount of £200; nor is there any matter of surprise in the incorporation's insisting upon these preliminaries being rigidly adhered to; for there certainly cannot be a better investment for money, considering the contingencies of human life. No life insurance or friendly society can equal this in-

stitution. As in other towns, the children and apprentices of guild brethren, except the apprentices of booksellers, have a claim upon paying small sums when they begin business for themselves. Here, however, the £200 claim is not required. They are free, however poor. The complicated affairs of this endowment cost the town council a great deal of trouble, although it is repaid to a generous mind by the amount of good they are the instruments of doing.

4th, *Allan's Hospital.*—This fund is the consequence £1666. 13s. 4d. sterling, bequeathed by John Allan, writer in Stirling, in the year 1728, for the maintenance and education of as many boys belonging to the seven incorporated trades, as the interest of the sum mortified would admit of, and who are admitted to the benefits of the fund at any time between the years of seven and nine, and they remain, from the period of their admission, five years, in which period the rudiments of a good education are obtained. This charity is completely unexceptionable in its objects, for whatever may be said,—and there is reason to believe too frequently, with justice,—of the improvident habits generated in the minds of men, by the idea that there is a provision already prepared for their declining years,—nothing of this kind can be said with respect to children, who really, without disturbing themselves about how it is derived, receive an education calculated to carry them through life with respectability. We have already attributed much of the high-toned morality which prevails in Stirling to this and the following institution, and would add farther, that as Stirling

sends more of her sons to an adventurous course of life, where,—if their conduct at all correspond with the education they receive, they are generally successful,—than any other town in the kingdom of its own size, it is to be attributed chiefly to these excellent institutions. We would suggest an idea here which may be of great practical utility both to the town council and the community—instead of endeavouring to instal children to the benefit of the charity so soon as they have completed their seventh year, the parents should struggle to keep them at school until they are upwards of eight years of age, and then let them have the benefit of the endowment for the next five important years of their youth, when, from the nature of the case, they are more narrowly watched than when under the care of their parents only,—as the teacher has the power, upon a boy's absenting himself from school or from church, of withholding the weekly allowance of 2s. 6d. for maintenance; and if this does not effect the purpose intended, he reports to the council, who are entitled to proceed in cutting him off from the benefits of the charity entirely, and of electing another in his place. When the endowment first came into operation a house and school-room were built for the accommodation of the boys, who were boarded with the master; but this scheme has since been laid aside, and the practice of boarding them with their parents adopted. The boys wear a livery, and have seats in the church appropriated for their own use.

This charity has been much used as a bribe for party political purposes, upon the principle of give me your

vote and you shall have your boy installed upon the hospital; and this was carried to so great a length that sometimes about fifty boys have been upon the foundation at one time, and upwards of thirty others who had books and education provided for them at the expense of the funds, besides girls who had instruction in sewing—a thing never contemplated by the will of Allan, however well it might suit the views of the politicians of the day, when these things were going on. The debt of the hospital, in consequence of this bad management chiefly, amounts to something above £2000, the interest upon which, as well as discharging part of the principal, renders the foundation incapable of supporting more now than twenty-two boys, and none of the other supernumeraries at all. The rental of Allan's hospital is somewhere about £700 annually. Its affairs are managed by a factor like Spittal's and Cowan's, who has a salary of £17. 10s., and chosen every way the same as the others.—Town council and second minister, patrons.

5th, *Cunningham's Mortification* is a sum of money left by Alexander Cunningham, for maintaining and educating boys in the same style as Allan's, and regulated by the same laws, with this exception—that the one-half of the boys are to be taken from the guildry, and the other from the mechanics, known in Stirling by the name of one of the tolerated communities, because they derive their right or charter from the town council; whereas the other incorporated bodies hold their's from the crown. This endowment supports as many children as that of Allan's, and its affairs are managed

by the burgh chamberlain, as none of its funds have yet been laid out in the purchase of lands, but have been swallowed up in the burgh debt, whence interest at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. is derived for the support of the boys. Town council alone, patrons.

Besides these there is a sum of £200 bequeathed by the late Captain Gilfillan, for keeping in a good state of repair a large part of the Back-walk, to which the Captain himself was very partial, as commanding the finest view of the enchanting scenery around Stirling. This money is under the direction of the magistrates alone, and not the town council.

The town council are also patrons of the three charges in the established church, divided here into two, called the East and West churches, each having one stated minister, denominated the first and second ministers. The duties of the third are quite anomalous, having to preach the one half of the day in the one church, and the other half in the other—thus having double duty to perform, although he receives the smallest salary. His duties might be very well dispensed with, as one minister is quite sufficient for either of the congregations. The first minister alone is the parish minister, and receives his stipend in the ordinary way, with the exception of this—that he has a claim for the carcases of two oxen, or as the phrase runs, beeves once in the year. This is commuted for £18 sterling, and a boat's-fishing in the river, which is also commuted generally for £80 sterling. The first minister, at present, is also chaplain in the castle, for which he is in the receipt of a distinct salary. Upon

the whole the living is a very good one. The second minister receives £250, and the third £200—all from the burgh funds, besides £25 for bearing expenses of the communion; and £20 are paid annually for precentors' salaries.

Besides the churches the council endows four schools. The grammar school has a salary of £70 a year, but the rector has to provide and support an assistant, subject to the control of the council. This school once stood high among the grammar schools of Scotland—being attended, at that time, by youths from many distant parts of the country, who were boarded, as many of them as could be admitted into his house, by the rector, who thus added very materially to his living, as he has a large house capable of containing a great number of boarders, provided by the public, rent free, besides his salary. But now, from whatever cause,—although there is an excellent scholar at the head of the seminary,—it is only the shade of what it was, and is almost a total wreck. This should be looked after. Many of the boys in the town are taught by a teacher who receives no public assistance. The writing and arithmetical school had, until 1829, £50 to the teacher, and as much for an assistant; now the assistant's salary is withdrawn, as being too heavy a charge upon the public. This school has for forty-four years been admirably conducted by the present master. In it some of the first writers in Scotland have been taught, particularly the Forresters in Edinburgh. There are two English schools, endowed with a salary of £50 each. In one of these the boys be-

longing to Allan's and Cunningham's endowments are taught, along with such other children as the popularity of the teacher or the pleasure of the public may bring to the school. The fees in this school are 3s. 6d. per quarter, while in the other they are 5s. The reason of this distinction we have never been able to discover, for we have always understood that a public endowment was intended not so much for the genteel support of the teacher as for the purpose of keeping the fees low, and providing cheap education for the public. This last object should never be lost sight of, as it is the basis, next to religion, of public morality—so that whatever is expended in this way, provided only it be kept within reasonable bounds, ought not to be regretted, otherwise in a short time public ignorance and its necessary concomitant, public vice, will become awfully prevalent, and the hitherto high moral status of the town will be greatly lowered. The town council are certainly entitled to the warmest thanks and gratitude of the public, for so liberally providing for the public instruction of the community. The instruction communicated in these only initiatory schools is of a very superior order, and calculated in a high degree to develope the youthful faculties. With the single invidious distinction already noticed, the fees in all the other schools are very low. In the grammar school 7s. 6d.; and in the writing &c. school 3s. 6d. for freemen's children—though we understand it is something higher to others.

Upon gala days and other public occasions, the magistrates and town council are preceded by five for-

midable looking personages, four of whom are town-serjeants, and the other town-drummer, grotesquely and antiquely dressed in scarlet, trimmed with lace, and their heads adorned with cocked castors mounted with silver, and bearing huge halberts, the brightness of which, however, intimates that they have very little duty to perform, excepting show. The same persons, under the denomination of sallies, cut a figure equally extravagant, although in a more sombre habit, in certain lugubrious processions in town.

Besides the established churches there are in Stirling two congregations of the United Associate Synod, one of which supports two ministers; one congregation of Original Burghers; one each of Congregationalists, of Reformed Presbyterians or Cameronians, of Episcopalians, of Roman Catholics, and two Baptists,—all, except one of the Baptists and Bereans, served by regularly ordained clergymen. The church accommodation amounts to 6504 sittings, not including the two Baptist, the Bereans, and the Roman Catholic places of worship; because they are not regularly seated, and therefore no notice is taken of them in the above enumeration of sittings.

There are also in the town, besides the endowed schools, many others unendowed, three of which are large and respectable, and one of them is certainly the most crowded school in the place. There are three respectable boarding-schools for young ladies kept—one in Baker-street by Miss Flint; another in Sauchie house by the Misses Read, both of long standing and acknowledged merit; and the other by the Misses

Kynnier at Inclosure-house, not of long standing, but of undoubted respectability. Mr. Rae, the teacher of the hospital children, boards boys in Allan-house, and prepares them for the counting-house. A classical education may easily be obtained, if required. The necessary accompaniments of sewing schools for girls are abundant, in some of which the rudiments of an English education are provided. For the higher branches of female education, the boarding-schools, which admit day scholars, provide sufficiently.

There are a number of fairs kept in Stirling, always on Fridays—but a list of these, along with other matters of a statistical nature, which may be useful to strangers, will be given in an appendix at the end of the volume. Friday is the weekly market day, and as may be supposed,—from Stirling being placed in one of the richest agricultural districts in Scotland—the weekly market is of great importance, there being grain and other agricultural produce disposed of weekly to a very large amount; so that the annual sales must be very great indeed. And when it is considered that within the last thirty years there has been so much waste land alone brought under culture within the district from which the weekly market of Stirling is supplied, as to produce, upon an average, about 60,000 bolls, or 30,000 quarters of grain annually—the importance of the corn market may be estimated; but if you add to this the fact that since the introduction of what is termed wedge or tile-draining, the good carse-land which has been cultivated from time immemorial produces at least one-sixth more of crop;—besides the

fact that in drained land the crop is more certain, in consequence of the superabundant moisture in wet seasons being immediately carried away by the numerous drains acting like so many syphons in drying the ground; and although the fact is not so obvious, draining is as useful in dry as in wet seasons, for by the removal of the water the clay soil is less tenacious, and does not crack and split into fissures, which admit the air to the roots of the plants, withering them up; the soil, in short, is more easily pulverised, and consequently kept closer at the roots of the plants; from all which circumstances the supply of the market is no doubt greatly enhanced. In order to afford more room for our increasing markets, the town council are at present blasting a considerably sized garden, which, in a short time, will add greatly to the necessary accommodations required in a stock market. From an examination of the fiar prices for last year, it will be found that the average of grain in Stirlingshire, notwithstanding its proximity to Edinburgh and Glasgow, where so much corn is consumed, is somewhat lower than that in the neighbouring counties.

In Stirling there are eight incorporated bodies.—The guildry and seven trades—blacksmiths or hammermen, the weavers, the shoemakers, the tailors, the bakers, the skinners, and the fleshers. The two last are very weak in numerical strength;—the political importance of these bodies is a mere shadow now, since the passing of the burgh reform bill. However it is still a matter of some importance in being connected with them, as the seven trades alone have a claim upon

the funds belonging to Spittal's and Allan's hospitals, and the guildry to Cowan's—which circumstance will keep the ranks of the incorporations comparatively full, especially the guildry. Otherwise it is a very absurd thing that these bodies of men, who are no better than their neighbours, should have it in their power to prevent other persons from following their lawful calling within the burgh until they have first payed a pecuniary mulct to these, known by the name of entry-money, and are then enrolled among the *freemen* of some of the incorporations. It is certainly time this very antiquated and worse than useless system were abolished, in order that competition may produce rivalry, which will ultimately greatly benefit the public. The guildry,—actuated by a spirit somewhat more enlightened than the trades,—have for a long time suffered persons to trade within the town upon paying £3 a-year, which is five per cent. upon the £60 demanded by this body as entry-money; but this yearly payment merely allows the parties to trade, they do not in consequence become to have any claim upon the funds of the guildry, or upon Cowan's hospital. It is to the honour of the weavers that they have voluntarily laid aside this incorporated monopoly. Let the other incorporations do the same, and whether the place thrive the better or not, they will not be to blame even by implication. There are three other communities, termed tolerated, viz. the mechanics, the barbers, and the brewers, besides a non-descript affair termed the *omne-gatherum* or carters; but for the life of us, we have never been able to discover what advan-

tage the members of these enjoy, except the mere name of being incorporated, and thus being neighbour-like; with the exception of the mechanics, who have, since 1808, a claim for their boys upon Cunningham's mortification.

Besides the special charities, there is one of a general nature, intended for the behoof of such persons as have no claim upon any of the endowments for specific purposes. This is called the poor's scheme, and is the only charity upon a great scale, which provides for the really poor. It is managed by the magistrates and ministers, *ex officio*, and a committee of the inhabitants. In the month of January, every year, this committee, including the magistrates and ministers, canvass the entire town, and take subscriptions for the annual sum each is inclined to give. This is then collected quarterly by the treasurer, who has £10 as his salary, which is nearly the whole amount paid for management. At first sight, after reading an account of these various charities, it might be supposed that the amount of pauperism in the town is very great; but when it is considered that those receiving aid from the endowments are by law entitled to the benefit of the funds so endowed, and that in most cases this assistance is only given to the poorest connected with the incorporation, not because they are really poor, but because they are the poorest of the persons to whom the will of the donor has a reference; and that the aid thence derived is intended rather to relieve comparative than real poverty—rather to smooth and comfort declining years, than to provide a mere scanty

subsistence,—and that the money is theirs, and what else can or ought to be done with it. It ought also to be remembered that numbers of those who receive aid from Cowan's fund especially, are persons who have only less to support them in age than they had when actively engaged in the business of life. It is therefore scarcely proper language to call these persons paupers. They are only persons whose circumstances are materially bettered by these endowments. The poor's scheme is the only extensive charity, exclusive of the support provided by the churches, for the support of the really poor; and this scheme has been hitherto voluntarily and pretty well supported, from a conviction that it is better to provide for the poor in this manner, than by an assessment, which is always very expensive in the management.

Stirling, as the county town, is the seat of the sheriff-courts, but as the periods when the court sits are enumerated in the Stirling Almanack, which is in every body's hands, we need not repeat them here. It is also the seat, twice in the year, in April and September, of the circuit court of justiciary, for the counties of Stirling, Clackmannan, and Kinross. As in the allocation of the districts from which the people attending this court come, there is very great inconvenience to the public, without being of any advantage to the court—we think we are performing our duty in directing public attention to the subject, with the view of remedying the evil. Some parts of the county of Kinross are within a few miles of Perth, and persons summoned as jurymen have, instead of walking into Perth,

to turn their face the other way and come to Stirling, a distance of from 24 to 30 miles. At the extreme west of the county of Stirling the same absurdity exists, although Glasgow is comparatively quite at hand. The people in the county of Kinross and the west end of Stirlingshire transact no business in Stirling, except that of the law—it is very hard, therefore, to compel them to come here to be jurymen, at their own expence, when the other places are so much more convenient. But the greatest absurdity in the whole affair is, that the people in at least fourteen pretty populous parishes in the western parts of Perthshire, who conduct all their business in Stirling, are yet under the necessity of going to Perth for their justiciary business. The inconvenience thence arising will be finely contrasted and illustrated by the fact that in the parish of Lecropt, which is little more than three miles from Stirling, when the schoolmaster is summoned to the court, he walks into Stirling; while the minister, whose house is not 200 yards from that of the teacher, has to go to Perth. Again,—at the Bridge of Drip, scarcely two and a half miles off, the tenant at the one end comes to Stirling, and the other goes to Perth, which is upwards of 40 miles, and so on along the whole course of the upper Forth. At Kippen for instance, which is only 10 miles from Stirling, while to Perth it is nearly 50. As the great loss of money, but especially of time, thence arising to the people in this district, is not and cannot be made up in any other way, something should be done to abridge at once the loss of money and the waste of time; and this is certainly the

more necessary as the court sits invariably in seed time and harvest, when the loss of time is most severely felt by a rural population, such as is that of the western district of Perthshire. The landed proprietors within the bounds ought to look after this matter, which is not the subject of party politics, but very desirable for the convenience of the whole body of the people resident in the places so awkwardly situated.

NOTES.—*See Page* 54.

[From the Register of the Kirk Session of Stirling, preserved in the Register Office, Edinburgh.]

1st—Concerning Spittal's Hospital.

Feb. 26. 1618.—*Hospitall.*—The quhilk day the brethrein of the kirk understanding that the maisteris of the Neather Hospitall hes bene dealling for conqueis of certane park ackiris of land, Seik manis hous, yaird and croft lyand within the territorie of this burgh of Stirling, to the use of the puir of the said Hospitall, quhilk now in end thay have coft for threttie four hundreth merkis, and hes be advyse of the provest bailleis and councell of the said burgh perfyted securities therupone, quhilk hes bein hard sein and considderit be the brethir present; and therfore the haill assemblie of the eldarschip of this kirk ratifeis and approvis the conqueis and bying of the saidis landis to the use of the said Hospitall and puir thereof, and thinkis the samin weill done be thame; quherupone the saidis Maisteris asket instrumentis.

Mar. 30. 1647.—*Ardinha his Dedication.*—The quhilk day compeirit Johne Dowe youngar of Ardinhall, and presentit to the Sessioun thrie hundreth merkis money Scottis, freillie given and dedicat by Hary Dow his father for the vse of Spittallis Hospitall and mantenance of the poore to be putt thairin: quhilk the Sessioun receauit thankfullie, &c.

[Because I had my educatione in my youthheid within the towne off Striuiling, at skoolles and learning off guid exerceissis To the glorie of God and in takine of thankfull remembrance to the place, I haiff giwin and bestowit sum thrie hundreth merkis money ffor help to the stock and prowisone off the auld Hospitall at Striuiling, callit Spittillis Hospitall, and for a supplie to the intertinement off the indigent and misterfull peopill remaining thair at present and to cum; Whiche hoiping wilbe acceptit in guid pairte, Giwand all praise to God almightie, and still praying for his mercie and remissione off my sins throughe the richteous merites off his blissed sone Jesus Christ my onlie Saviour, I rest waiting for the tyme that he salbe pleasit to mak the seperatioun.

August 1645, To be presentit to the Kirk
Sessione at Striuiling. H. Dow *off Arnehall.*]

Mar. 25. 1628.—*Williame Meassoune puirman.*—The quhilk day compeared Williame Meassoune puirman in the Hospitall, and being accused for not wearing of his liveray, and not keiping of the kirk, and for his drunknes, and for wanting his mark aff his gowne sleife; is ordeaned giff ever he be sein wanting his gowne, or drunk, or out of the kirk, or wanting his mark, he should losse his place.

2d.—Change of the Market Day.

Feb. 22. 1648.—*Anent changing the mercat day.*—The quhilk day Report wes maid be the Magistratis that the counsell of this brugh haue determined and ordained that the mercat day sall be changit from Saturnday to Fryday weiklie in tyme coming, and desyres the Ministeris to signifie the same to the presbytrie the morrow, desyring that they may intimate the same in each paroche of the presbytrie on Sonday nixt.

3d.—Remains of the Catholic Religion.

Jul. 12. 1610.—The quhilk day comperit Grissal Glen and Marioun Gillaspie, quha for ther superstitione in passing in pilgramage to Christis well, as thay confessit the last day, thay ar ordeinit to mak publict repentance the nixt Sonday in linning claithis.

Jun. 1. 1630.—*Christes Well.*—The quhilk day compeirit Elspet

Aiken spous to Andro Cunynghame tinckler, Jonet Harvie, William Huttoune cutler, Margaret Mitchell dochter to Alexander Mitchell, Jonet Bennet dochter to James Bennet cuik, James Ewein sone to Johne Ewein wobster, Margaret Wright, James Watsoune, who confessis passing in pilgrimage to Christes Well in Maij. and thairfoir they ar ordeaned to mak publick repentance the nixt Sabboth in thair awin habeit, under the paine of disobedience.

Lykway I Mr Patrik Bell am ordeaned to desyre the bretherein of the presbyterie to appoint ane actuall minister for to preache upon Sonday nixt, for to tak ordour with the said persounes abovewritten.

[Query.—Is this the first intimation we have of a second minister?]

Christ's, now called Chapel Well, mentioned above, is at the bottom of a small dell, called Glen Murray, immediately adjoining Cambusbarron. There is a tradition current that it was here the water was got for performing the religious services at the great battle of Bannockburn—one redeeming quality at least of the superstition which could consecrate spring water.

4th.—This has reference to a darker superstition, and seems to point to a period antecedent to any form of Christianity, however perverted.

Maii 11. 1615.—*John Keir.*—The quhilk day compeirit Johne Keir in Cambuskynneth, and confessis he tuik to Jonnet Murrioch in Dunblane ane sark of Williame Gillaspie his gude sone, and askit of hir if he wald die or leive; quha ansuerit him, that he wald nocht die this yeir; and that she cust ane knot on ane of the slevis of his sark, and redelyverit the samin agane to him, and bade him put it on hir; and therfor he is warnit to compeir befoir the Presbiterie on the xvij day of Maij instant, to receave his injunctionis.

Jan. 29 1628—The quhilk day compeared Margaret Donaldsoune spous to James Forsythe, and bein accused of the breatherein for giving ane sark of her bairnes to Helen Squyar to tak to Margaret Cuthbert in Garlickcraig for to charme the same; the said Margaret Donaldsoune confessed that schoe gave her the sark, and the

said Helen Squyar confessed that schoe tuik it to that Margaret Cuthbert intending to have it charmed, bot denyes that it was charmed at all, becaus the said Margaret Cuthbert refuised; Thairfoir the breatherein ordeanis the said persounes, to witt Margaret Donaldsoune for giving of the bairnes sark, and Helen Squyar for receaving of it, to sitt togidder upon the seat quhair the breckers of the Sabbaothe sitts, and mak thair publict repentance upon thair kneis befoir the congregatioune.

Maii 6. 1628—*Neilsoun satisfied*—The quhilk day the breatherein ordeanes Adam Neilsoune to mak his repentance upon the kirk fluir in presence of the congregatioune, for his consulting with Stein Maltman ane witche.

[It is not yet 20 years since we came to the knowledge of the fact that in a neighbouring house, and at the very instant of our information, something of the same kind as this mentioned in these Notes, was performing upon a person who was dying, and who did die notwithstanding!!]

5th.—Origin of the Ten o'Clock Bell.

Feb. 6. 1612.—The brethrein of the kirk aggreis and gevis thair full consent to the ordinance of the Councell, commanding that na persone be sein upone the gaitis nor drinkand in tavernis, aill housis, nor in na uther housis at any time after ten houris at evin; at the quhilk hour ane bell is appointed to be rung for adverteisment besyd uther adverteismentis be the knok and utherwayes.

6th.—Charming.

Apr. 30. 1633.—*Margaret Chapman.*—The quhilk day compeired Margaret Chapman spous to Jhone Bennet cuper of Stirling, and being accused be Agnes Bennie spous to Andrew Bell wobster in Stirling, for taking of her milk from hir out of hir breist, sche having abundance thairof, be unlawfull meanes, and laying of seiknes upon hir and hir bairne, as the said Agnes Bennie alledges; The said Margaret Chapman confest that schee learned of ane Margaret Dundie in Sanct Johnstoun, quhen any woman lost hir milk, to caus the womans bairne that wants the milk to souck ane uther woman who hes milk in her breist, becaus ane gredie eye or hart tuik

the milk from the woman that wants the milk; and that schoe learned be Margaret Downie spous to Thomas Burne smith in Stirling, to nipe the womanes cloithes who had the breist of milk, and be so doing the milk sould returne agane to the woman that wantit it; and swa accordinglie the said Margaret Chapman confessed that schoe practized the samyne, and caused hir bairne souck Agnes Bennie, and that the said Margaret Chapman nipped Agnes Binnie's aprone, &c. &c.

7th.—Buying a Wife.

Dec. 31. 1638.—*Buying of Agnes Crawfurd.*—The quhilk day compeired Williame Williamsone stranger, and being accused for buying of Agnes Crawfurd spous to Robert Baird, upon the quhilk bargane he gave Agnes Crawfurd foirsaid sax punds, and to the foirsaid Robert Baird aucht punds, all which the said Williame Williamsone confessed: For the which offence the brethrein ordenis the said money to be given to Johne Liddell and Alexander Huttoune collectors of the penalties, and the said William Williamsone and Agnes Crawfurd to be locked in chrynes at the cross betuix ellevin and twell hours upon Wednisday nixt; also the said William Williamesone and Agnes Crawfurd ar interdyted of wthers cumpanie heirefter except in kirk and mercat, under the paine of being reput adulterars indeid.

8th.—Rigid Sabbath keeping.

Sept. 4. 1642—*Act anent the keipping of the Portis on the Sabboth day.*—It is ordaynit for the better keipping of the Sabbothe, and restrayning of passingeris for travelling with horssis or loadis, that nayther the Bridgport nor Barresyet be farther opnit, bot only the wickitis thairof, fra morning til efternone on the Sabbothe day; as also that in tyme of sermone, both befoir and efternone, the wickitis be keippit clois and lokit; and in cais the samin be not preceislie obeyit, these that hes the trust of the keyes to pay for everie transgressione xls. *toties quoties.*

[Did the people beyond the town, in those days, ever take suddenly ill during the time of sermon?]

CHAP. VI.

Survey of the Town.

The approach to Stirling from the south (whether by the Edinburgh or Glasgow road) is singularly delightful. The country is rich and fertile ; the scenery diversified and splendid ; the villas numerous and elegant ; and whether we reflect on the profusion of the beauties of nature, which are so luxuriously spread before us,—the castle forming from every part a grand and picturesque object in the landscape,—or whether we consider the classic or hallowed ground over which we are passing, the mind is filled with all that glow and warmth of imagination which either the patriotic bosom or the adorer of Creation's grandeur is susceptible of enjoying.

The most attractive mode of approach however from the metropolis, is by one of the several steamers that ply on the river Forth, which commands occasionally the most satisfactory views of both the town and castle ; and from the numerous and singular windings of the river, the country in its diversified openings and recedings forms a perfect peristrephic panorama, every ten or twelve yards placing a different and interesting landscape before the eyes of the spectator, replete with interest and beauty.

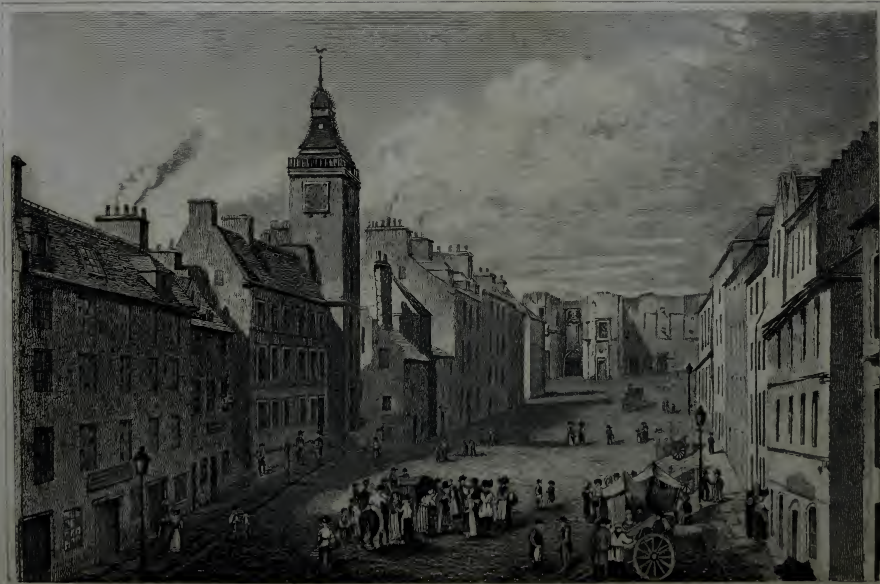
The stranger, in order to see the town properly,

and with perhaps the greatest saving of time, should commence his perambulations from Port-street, which in former times was the boundary of Stirling, as it still is that of the royalty, and which anciently, like most other of the principal towns in the kingdom, was terminated by a gate and archway. In ascending from this street the first object that arrests the attention of the traveller is the *Public Reading Room and Library*, a modern building, fronting down King-street, and opened for the first time on the 7th of January, 1817. This structure, which is surmounted by a handsome spire, was erected in 1816, from a design by William Stirling, Esq. Architect, Dunblane; and though much allowance must be made for the somewhat contracted appearance it presents, owing to the unavoidable narrowness of its front, yet it may be said that few provincial Libraries or Reading Rooms in Scotland can boast of a better edifice, or of superior internal accommodation. The Library, which was instituted in 1805, consists of upwards of 4000 volumes, in all the various departments of literature, and is supported by about 140 subscribers who pay 12s. 6d. annually. The Reading Room is well supplied with London, Edinburgh, and Glasgow Papers, Magazines, Reviews, &c. and generally commands 90 subscribers at a guinea each. Temporary residenters in town pay 2s. 6d. monthly; but strangers are permitted to frequent the Room for any period less than a month, without liability to any charge. Nearly opposite to the Public Reading Room and Library, on the right, stands the *Bank of Scotland's Office*, newly finished, a spacious and admir-

able fabric, but its elegant appearance is far from sufficiently commanding, from its contiguity to the street. The back of the building,—a view of which we may command by stepping into Friars' Wynd,—is much more attractive than its front; and from our being able to retire to a proportionate distance, the effect is also much enhanced. Passing the Bank, we enter Baker-street, which has little to recommend it in point of show. The declivity is unavoidably great, and, especially towards the top, like all streets of the olden time, it is inconveniently narrow. It has, however, thanks to the consideration of our successive civic rulers, underwent in the course of time, a most praiseworthy renovation; for but a few generations back, the dwelling-houses projected so far over the shops, that it is said two friends on opposite sides of the street could shake hands with each other from their respective windows, and the *crones* of those days could hold their morning's *tete-a-tete* in the same manner, without being overheard by even their nearest neighbour.—About half-way up Baker-street, on the south side, lies Bank-street, at the top of which and fronting us stands the *Commercial Banking Company's Office*, a dead heavy-looking structure, the colonade and massive columns in front bearing no proportion to the limited size of the building. It was erected in 1825; and it is asserted that the portico, which for ornament as well as utility might have perhaps been better spared, cost more than all the rest of the erection. Proceeding onwards, after reaching the top of Baker-street, we pass through a narrow lane, yclept, for what reason it

is difficult to say, the Bow, at the termination of which is Broad-street, truly the only beautiful and spacious street to which Stirling can lay claim; the seat of residence, in ancient times, of many of the most distinguished nobility of the land; and the scene of several serious civil broils. A handsome private building at the bottom of the south side of the street now occupies the site where stood the Earl of Morton's lodgings at the time of the Raid of Stirling, as it is called, one of the most remarkable and memorable events to be found in Scottish history:—

During the reign of the ill-fated Mary, it is almost superfluous to state, the kingdom was torn with faction; one party being zealously attached to the cause of the Queen, and another as much so to that of her infant son James VI.; the nearest and dearest relations espousing diverse interests; and even children, imbued with the spirit of their fathers, had their infantine encounters, wrangling about they knew not what; and Kingsman or Queensman was a sort of cognomen by which almost every one in the nation was distinguished. Upon the death of Regent Murray, who was shot at Linlithgow by Hamilton of Bothwellhaugh in 1570, the Earl of Lennox, the father of the murdered Darnley, was appointed to succeed him. At this time the country was steeped to the very lips in turmoil and commotion. The Queen's party had called a parliament at Edinburgh; the opposite faction summoned a counter one to meet at Stirling, where, it may be stated, the baby-king, arrayed in all the gorgeous flummery of royalty, was produced, with a view



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BROAD STREET.

to give the more effect, or at least a better tone of authority to their proceedings. Historians assert that the apartment where they met was far from being in the best state of repair, there being a hole of no inconsiderable size in the roof. When James, who was then only five years of age, entered the room, he was struck with the vast assemblage by which he was surrounded, and intimated a wish to know the nature of the business for which they had convened. Being informed that it was the parliament, the boy with natural childishness remarked, "I think there be ane hole in the parliament;"* words, which though only to be attributed to infantine simplicity, were, from the following event, which a few days brought about, raised in the estimation of the country into something like prediction:—Kirkaldy, then governor of Edinburgh castle, and a strong adherent to the Queen, learning that the King's party at Stirling deemed themselves so secure that not the slightest precaution was taken to prevent an attack, projected an incursion; and accordingly set out for that purpose on the 2d of September, 1571, with two hundred horse, and about three hundred foot. By a rapid march,—to facilitate which the infantry were mounted behind the troopers,—the whole arrived and entered the defenceless and unguarded town in the dead of night, under the guidance of a Captain George Bell, a native of Stirling, who pointed out to his followers the houses of the nobility

* Some accounts say that the hole was not in the ceiling of the room, but in the cloth that covered the table. *N' importe.*

in Broad-street, which were immediately surrounded; and the whole of the noble occupiers, even Lennox himself, surrendered themselves prisoners, with the exception of the obstinate Morton, who yielded not till his house was actually in flames about him. This honourable obstinacy proved the ruin of the assailants; for sufficient time was procured to communicate the intelligence to the Earl of Mar, who commanded the garrison in the castle, and who sallied out with a small band of his soldiers, led them into a large unfinished mansion of his own at the top of the street,—the ruins of which are still to be seen,—whence his party fired such an effective volley on the invaders that they were fairly terror-struck; and being unable to estimate the strength of their new and totally unlooked-for opponents, the incursionists, in the height of consternation, retreated in the utmost disorder and confusion. The Queen's party had previously been somewhat weakened; for not a few of them, supposing the fray at an end, and the victory complete, had scattered themselves about the town in search of plunder; and many of those who remained, on account of the narrowness of Bow-street, through which they had to pass, were, in the rush of discomfiture, trodden to death by their late triumphant and victorious companions. Mar followed up his advantage; and being joined by those who had escaped from their captors, as well as by many of the townsmen, his numbers became at last so considerable, and his exertions so effectual, that the assailants were completely routed; and many of them were glad to submit themselves prisoners to those very

men, whom, but a moment as it were before, they had held in similar bondage. A number fell on each side; but all of the King's party who had been taken captive were found safe, except the Regent, who was barbarously murdered by a Captain Calder, from rage it is alledged at seeing the enterprise defeated;—and Sir David Spence of Ormiston, to whom Lennox had surrendered, was also cut down in generously endeavouring to save the life of the noble personage who had placed himself under his charge. The Regent, who received his death-wound where the village of New-house stands, about a quarter of a mile from Port-street,—whither the insurrectionists were pursued,—did not alight from his horse till he reached the castle, where he died in the evening, and was afterwards interred in the chapel royal. Among the prisoners taken by the King's defenders were Calder and Bell, who, two days afterwards, were publicly executed in Broad-street, so lately the scene of their momentary triumph.

At the bottom of the street, about the centre of those houses that front its top, is one, till lately occupied by the Bank of Scotland, wherein resided Henry Stewart, Lord Darnley, in solitude and disgrace, during the festivity attendant on the baptism of James VI. his son. Various reasons are assigned by our historians for the absence of the father on such an important occasion; some asserting that his absence was requested, in consequence of a difference between him and Mary his wife, originating in the share that he took in the murder of her favourite Rizzio; while others main-

tain that from the continual domestic turmoils of the once loving pair, Darnley voluntarily absented himself on purpose to mortify the queen. "Mary," says Robertson, "felt the insult sensibly; and notwithstanding all her efforts to assume the gaiety which suited the occasion, and which was necessary for the polite reception of her guests, she was sometimes obliged to retire, in order to be at liberty to indulge her sorrow, and give vent to her tears."

In this street, too, resided Esme Stuart, who was Lord D'Aubigny in France, and who afterwards was Duke of Lennox in Scotland, one of the favourites and an intimate friend of the non-descript James VI. and who was principally instrumental in procuring not only the ruin but the subsequent condemnation and death of the Earl of Morton, a minister who long held James completely under his controul. His residence is said to have been a splendid mansion on the south side of the street, towards the top, now the site of the present weigh-house.

About the middle of the same side of the street, and readily recognised by the adjoining steeple, stands the *Town-house*, built in 1701.

Opposite this, in the centre of the street, till some forty years ago, stood the market-cross; a lofty pillar, to the base of which there was an ascent from all points by circular rows of steps. On the top of the pillar sat a figure of the Scottish unicorn, extending the shield of the royal arms of Scotland, surmounted by the crown. This figure is still preserved, and now occupies a niche in the front of the contiguous steeple.

The cross is said to have been of beautiful workmanship, and certainly if we may form an idea from the figure of the unicorn, we see no reason to doubt the truth of the remark.

The hall, where the Court of Justiciary, the Sheriff Court, &c. hold their sittings, is immediately behind, wherein are preserved a few of the carved heads that formerly adorned the walls and ceiling of the presence-chamber in the palace of the castle; and which were fortunately rescued from being consumed as firewood, in 1777, by the then governor of Stirling jail. In that year one of these interesting relics having fallen from the roof of the palace, and struck one of the castle soldiers, the walls were immediately ordered to be stripped, and these beautiful efforts of art were turned over with the rubbish into neglect and oblivion. The individual whom we have mentioned, accidentally saw a girl pass him with one in her hand, which he obtained for a mere trifle, and appreciating its value, he instantly set about securing the few that remained,—the few that now adorn the walls of the Justiciary Court-room. It is unquestionable, and much to be regretted, that many of these admirable ornaments were lost, as the present specimens alone afford sufficient proof that the art of carving on wood is of great antiquity in Scotland, and that even at this distant period,—the time of the Jameses,—it had arrived at much perfection. The borders which surround these carvings are rich and beautiful; and exhibit a profusion of fanciful and elegant mouldings which it is wonderful to find at this early era of our Scottish architecture.

There are also in the Court-room two excellent paintings of their majesties George II. and his Queen, which were presented to the town council of Stirling, shortly after that monarch ascended the throne, by the then member of parliament for this district of burghs.

At the back of the Court-house, and fronting St. John's Street, is the *Jail*, an inelegant and unsubstantial building, and internally as uncomfortable as it is insecure. Under the keeping of the governor of the prison are a few ancient curiosities, particularly the Pint Measure,—but better known by the name of the Stirling Jug,—appointed to be the legal standard for dry and liquid measure, by an act of the Scottish Parliament in 1437. It is made of a sort of coarse brass, and weighs 14 ℔. 12 oz. 2 dr. Scottish Troy. Its mean depth is 6 inches; its diameter at the top 4.17 inches, and at the bottom 5.25 inches. It contains 103.404 cubic inches, or 3 ℔. 7 oz. Scots Troy weight, of clear river water, being equal to 3 ℔. 11 oz. 13.44 dr. Avoirdupois. On the front it has two shields in relief; one of which near the mouth bears a lion *rampant*, the Scottish national arms; the other displays a rudely designed quadruped in a horizontal position, but so ill defined as to bear no resemblance to any thing. Some however conjecture it to be an ape *passant gardant*, under which is the letter S.; and for want of a more feasible supposition, it is alledged by some of those who pore o'er "auld nick-nackets," to be the armorial bearing of the artist who manufactured the utensil. Others again imagine that it is intended to represent the wolf, the crest of the burgh arms; though in either

supposition the meaning of the artist is difficult to be understood. The handle of the Jug is fastened to it with two brass nails, and the whole has an appearance of antiquity and rudeness quite characteristic of its very early age.*

The Keys of the Burgh are also in the keeping of the Jailor; two silver keys of the ordinary modern form, and about seven inches long, belonging to the respective gates by which the town was formerly entered, the one at the port and the other at the bridge. The Magistrates here, as is also customary in other places, usually present the burgh-keys to *royal* visitors, the last of whom who honoured us with his *gracious presence*, was Leopold, the present King of the Netherlands.

* It will be interesting to all votaries of antiquity to know, that this vessel, which may in some measure be esteemed a national palladium, was rescued, about 85 years ago, from the fate of being utterly lost, to which all circumstances for some time seemed to destine it. The person whom we have to thank for this good service, was the Rev. Alexander Bryce, minister of Kirknewton, near Edinburgh, a man of scientific and literary accomplishment much superior to what was displayed by the generality of the clergy of his day. Mr. Bryce (who had taught the mathematical class in the college of Edinburgh, during the winter of 1745-6, instead of the eminent Maclaurin, who was then on his death-bed,) happened to visit Stirling in the year 1750; when, recollecting that the Standard Pint Jug was appointed to remain in that town, he requested permission from the magistrates to see it. The magistrates conducted him to their council-house, where a *pewter* pint jug was taken down from the roof, whence it was suspended, and presented to him. After a careful examination, he was convinced that this could not be the legal standard. He communicated his opinion to the ma-

The stranger by stepping a very few yards further down St. John's Street, will find himself in front of the Burgher Meeting-house ; a place rendered somewhat attractive from its having been the spot where the celebrated Ebenezer Erskine first planted the standard of the Associate Synod, a body which has now become so numerous and respectable. The present building was erected in 1826, and exhibits a style of architecture peculiarly chaste and simple, the effect being considerably heightened by the tasteful profusion of shrubbery with which it is adorned in front.

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gistrates ; but they were equally ignorant of the loss which the town had sustained, and indisposed to take any trouble for the purpose of retrieving it. It excited very different feelings in the acute and enquiring mind of Dr. Bryce ; and, resolved, if possible, to recover the valuable antique, he immediately instituted a search ; which, though conducted with much patient industry for about a twelvemonth, proved, to his great regret, unavailing. In 1752, it occurred to him, that the standard jug might have been borrowed by some of the coppersmiths or braziers, for the purpose of making legal measures for the citizens, and, by some chance, not returned. Having been informed that a person of this description, named Urquhart, had joined the insurgent forces in 1745—that, on his not returning, his furniture and shop utensils had been brought to sale—and that various articles, which had not been sold, were thrown into a garret as useless, a gleam of hope darted into his mind, and he eagerly went to make the proper investigation. Accordingly, in that obscure garret, groaning underneath a mass of lumber, he discovered the precious object of his research.—Thus was discovered the only standard, by special statute, of all liquid and dry measure in Scotland, after it had been offered for sale at perhaps the cheap and easy price of one penny, rejected as unworthy of that little sum, and subsequently thrown by as altogether useless ; and many years after it had been considered, by its constitutional guardians, as irretrievably lost.

The old mansion next to the Burgher meeting-house, on the upper side of the street, was, in Stirling's courtly days, the residence of the Earl of Lithgow.

It will be readily perceived that from where we now stand, we have a noble prospect of the chancel of the High Church, by which St. John's Street is bounded at the top; but as this ancient and elegant edifice has so much to recommend it to the notice of the stranger, it may not be deemed an improper subject for the commencement of another chapter.

CHAP. VII.

The High Church.

The High Church is a magnificent pile of Gothic architecture, all of hewn stone, with an arched ceiling supported by two rows of massy pillars; though the galleries tend to lessen the effect that would otherwise be produced by the height of the walls and the vaulting of the roof. Originally the whole building formed one church, but in 1656 it was divided, and at present makes two large and convenient places of worship, called, for distinction's sake, the East and West Churches. The western division is the much more ancient, having been built by James IV. for the accommodation of the Franciscans or Gray Friars, a convent which that monarch founded here in 1494, and which, along with that of the Dominicans, or Preaching Friars,—to which we have elsewhere made allusion,—was destroyed in 1559, by those who followed the Lords of the Congregation hither, in order to thwart the designs of the Queen-regent, Mary of Guise, who intended to garrison the town with troops from France. In the Franciscan convent James IV. is said to have spent a considerable portion of his time, and not unfrequently dined within its walls, on his bare knees, upon bread and water, thus expressing his repentance for having been partly instrumental in the death of his father.

The west church was long comparatively neglected, but underwent a thorough repair, and was very tastefully fitted up in 1816. A few monuments grace the walls of the interior, among which, perhaps the most interesting to the literary tourist is that to the memory of Dr. David Doig, who was rector of the grammar school of Stirling for upwards of forty years; one of the first scholars of his day; the author of a treatise of much research and learning on the savage state; as well as of the articles Philology, and Mysteries, in the Encyclopædia Britannica.

The east church,—in external appearance the more magnificent structure of the two,—was built, at least the chancel of it, by the ambitious and country-enslaving Cardinal Beaton, in 1543. Its east window is strikingly handsome. The vacant niches in the buttresses around the exterior of the building, are supposed to have been filled, previous to the reformation, with statues of the apostles.

The church of Stirling is noticed in Scottish history as the place, where, in 1543, the Earl of Arran, Regent during the minority of Mary, devoting himself to the will of Cardinal Beaton, publicly renounced the reformed religion, which he had once professed to favour. Here also on the 29th of July, 1567, was crowned James VI. when only thirteen months and ten days old, on which occasion the fearless and intrepid John Knox preached the coronation sermon; and among the nobles who assisted at the ceremony were Lords Lindsay and Ruthven, who extorted the resignation of the crown from the unfortunate Mary.

From its majestic though simple appearance, the *Tower* or *Steeple* at the west end of the church,—a solid building, 22 feet square and about 90 high,—is an object of considerable attraction. Many hollows are visible on the sides of the edifice, said to have been occasioned by the bullets fired from the castle in 1651, on the troops of General Monck, who raised batteries in the church-yard immediately under; and also at the Highlanders in 1746, who took possession of it to celebrate their victory at Falkirk, which they did by ringing the bells of the steeple and discharging firearms from the battlements. Without pretending to question the cause assigned for the hollows alluded to, strangers may perhaps think it curious to find them as numerous on the south side of the building as on any other, where no bullet could possibly reach fired from the castle. These injuries, therefore, we do not pretend to account for, if they have not been occasioned by the influence of the weather on the less durable portions of the stone.

Opposite the Tower stands *Cowan's Hospital*, which has been already minutely taken notice of in a portion of our municipal chapter.* The building, however, is more commonly designated the *Guild-Hall*, from its being the property of the Guildry, and the place where the Dean or President of that respectable body uniformly holds his courts. It was erected in 1639; and though void of vain external trappings, is no uninteresting specimen of the style of architecture which pre-

* See Pages 55—59.

dominated in the 17th century, and is by no means out of keeping with the sacredness and stillness by which it is surrounded. The full-length statue in a niche of the spire is meant to represent the founder. Whether it bears any resemblance to the original it is hard to determine; but at all events it enables us to form a pretty correct idea of the costume worn by the better sort of Scottish burghers at the time when Cowan lived.

Closely adjoining to the Guild-Hall is the *Bowling Green*, a delightfully situated spot, admirable alike for its seclusion, the scenery around, and the tasteful order in which it is kept. The flower parterre that borders it, teems, in proper season, with profuse luxuriance, though from the pains-taking manner in which the shrubbery has been cut and carved, the lover of real Nature may conceive that there is too palpable a manifestation of Art.

Retracing our steps around the Church to the top of High Street, we stand in front of the wreck of a ruin called *Mar's Work;* a palace, so far as it was carried, of superior workmanship, which was begun by John, Earl of Mar, in 1570, the year before he was appointed regent. It was originally a quadrangular building, but there now remains no more of it than what may be seen from the street; a dilapidated fragment of the front of the square. Over the principal entrance are the royal arms of Scotland, and on the two projections on each side of it, those of the regent and his countess. A variety of curious figures jut out from various parts of the wall, but they are in such a mutilated state that

no idea can be formed of what they were meant to represent. In this palace James VI. and his queen resided in December 1593, while the castle was preparing for their reception; and, according to Sir Robert Sibbald, the Earl who headed the first rebellion "lived splendidly here," in 1710. The stones comprising the building, or at least the greater part of them, were brought from the ruins of Cambuskenneth Abbey, of which the Earl had got a grant; a proceeding which drew down the ire of the independent but irritable John Knox, who exclaimed against it as sacrilege, and openly prophesied in consequence the ruin of the regent's family. To deprecate this charge, or to justify the curious taste which directed him in the construction of the building, the Earl placed over the various gate-ways—the two last in the front, and the other on the entrance from behind—the three following inscriptions :—

ESSPY . SPEIK . FVRTH . AND . SPAIR . NOTHT .
CONSIDDER . VEIL . I . CAIR . NOTHT .

THE MOIR I STAND ON OPIN HITHT,
MY FAVLTIS MOIR SVBIECT AR TO SITHT.

I PRAY AL LVKARIS ON THIS LVGING,
VITH GENTIL E TO GIF THAIR IVGING.

Leaving Mar's Work, we enter a narrow lane called *Castle Wynd*, where John, Lord Glammis, then Chancellor of Scotland, was shot on the 17th March, 1578. A deadly rancour existed between Glammis and David, Earl of Crawford, who on the day mentioned happened to pass each other in the Castle Wynd. Although not even a sign of recognition passed between

the noblemen themselves, yet two of those who followed in their respective retinues immediately quarrelled, and began to fight; on which a pistol was fired, the ball of which went through Lord Glammis' head, who instantly expired.

About the middle of the west or left hand side of the street, is an old building, distinguished by a round projecting turret, said to have been erected and inhabited by the learned Scottish historian and poet, the well-known George Buchanan. The house next to it, further on, with the outer staircase, is also a very ancient one, and has a coat-of-arms in front of it, but which is now so much defaced as to be perfectly illegible. Nearly opposite to this is a spacious quadrangular edifice named *Argyle's Lodging*, from its having been long in the possession of that celebrated family. It was built in 1633 by Sir William Alexander, a personage, who, in consequence of his literary talents and courtly suavity of manners, rose from being Laird of Menstrie, (a small estate to the north-east of Stirling), to immense wealth; was Secretary of State to Charles I.; and latterly boasted the high titles of Earl of Stirling, Viscount Canada, and Lord Alexander of Tullibody. In 1621 he obtained a grant of extensive lands in North America, and settled the colony of Nova Scotia. After his death, however, the wealth and prosperity of his offspring rapidly declined; and this splendid mansion, which exhibits a perfect model of the lordly style of architecture that prevailed at the period of its erection, fell into the hands of the family of Argyle. It was the temporary residence of James, Duke

of York (afterwards James II.) and his family in 1680, when these royal personages visited Stirling castle; and, at the instance of that monarch, his noble entertainer, the unfortunate Earl of Argyle, suffered death, only five years after. Here, also, his grandson, John, Duke of the same name, resided and held his council of war in the rebellion of 1715. Above the principal door is the coat-of arms of the founder, with the motto PER MARE PER TERRAS; and over the windows of the centre part and northern wing, are still visible the initials of William, Earl of Stirling, and Jane, Countess of Stirling, surmounted by a coronet. Over all the windows of the southern wing is a boar's head, the crest of the Campbells, from which it is inferred that this portion of the edifice was added by some of the Argyle family; and one of the doors of it is dated 1674. The building, which passed successively into several hands, is now the property of the crown, who purchased it in 1799, and converted it into a military hospital.

When a few yards beyond this mansion, the lover of the antique in particular will be highly gratified by a retrospective glance at Castle Wynd: The front of Argyle's Lodging; the very ancient house almost immediately opposite; the turretted tenement adjacent, once as we have said the residence of the great Buchanan; Mar's work, and the chancel of the church, have altogether a strikingly picturesque effect, and form as interesting a picture of antiquity as is any where to be met with.

The stranger is now in front of the grammar school, contiguous to which is a commodious flight of steps

that conducts him to the esplanade in front of the castle, and at the same time places in his possession one of the richest prospects that can possibly be conceived,—a prospect of which language can convey no idea that would not fall infinitely short of the grandeur which is every where presented to view.

The extensive plain which comprises this unrivalled landscape, is admitted to be upwards of sixty miles in length, and in many parts from ten to fifteen miles in breadth, embodying a thousand fascinating combinations; fertile in the highest degree; and studded with superb villas, thriving villages and towns, conveying an idea of richness as well as of grandeur; while the seemingly interminable Gorgian-like windings of the river Forth, inspire ideas both magnificent and amusing. The view to the east indeed may be said to be absolutely boundless; while the Ochils on the north, and the other numerous bold and verdant mountains to the south, form as it were a stupendous frame to this most splendid picture. The scene cannot be witnessed at any time without the most lively sensations of delight; but if viewed when the sun is about to sink beneath the horizon,—"trembling," as Ossian says, "at the gates of the west,"—and shedding his lingering golden rays on the tops of the mountains, the effect is magnificently sublime.

A prominent object in the foreground, on one of the numerous peninsulas formed by the wonderful meanderings of the river, stands the *Tower of Cambuskenneth*, the almost sole remaining feature of that once opulent and extensive abbey, which, with many others

throughout Scotland, was founded partly from religious and partly from wise political motives, by David I., in 1147, and was one of the wealthiest abbeys in the kingdom. It was filled with canons-regular of the order of St. Augustine, brought from Aroise in the province of Artois. For the space of 200 years after its erection this abbey was almost every year acquiring fresh additions of wealth and power by the donations of various noblemen, bishops, and barons, besides many rich oblations daily made by persons of every rank. Among other remarkable donations of fisheries, pasturages, &c. was one granted by the founder, King David, of half the skins and tallow of all the beasts slain for the king's use at Stirling. During the wars with England, in the reign of David Bruce, this monastery was pillaged of its most valuable furniture; to replace which loss, William Delandel, Bishop of St. Andrews, made a grant to the community of the vicarage of Clackmannan. Cambuskenneth is noted in history as the place where a number of the Scottish barons convened in 1308, and swore on the great altar to defend the title of the immortal Robert Bruce to the crown of Scotland against all enemies whatsoever; and also as the scene of a vast assemblage of the clergy, nobility, &c. in 1326, who, in presence of Bruce himself, swore fealty to David, that patriot's son, as heir apparent to the crown, as well as to Robert Stewart, the king's grandson, in the event of the former dying without issue. This monastery maintained its important and elevated status till the time of the reformation; and when Stirling was the residence of the Scottish court, the Ab-

bots were generally entrusted with important transactions in affairs of state; for example, in 1532, when the College of Justice was instituted by James V., the then Abbot of this place, Alexander Milne, was the first President of the Court of Session. But in 1559 this beautiful pile of building felt the ire of the reformers, who in this, as in almost all other instances, hastened its demolition in the most tumultuary manner. Nothing of the splendid structure now remains except the Tower, the traces of the walls, a remnant of the garden, and a portion of the burial-place, which tradition asserts contains the remains of James III. and his queen.—On the accession of James VI. to the throne of England, the temporalities of Cambuskenneth were gifted to John Earl of Mar, son of the Regent, in whose family it continued till 1709, when the town council of Stirling purchased it for Cowan's hospital, to which it still belongs.

Nearly a mile to the left of the Abbey, is a hill,—the property also of Cowan's hospital,—called the *Abbey Craig*, interesting not only from the bold feature which it forms in the prospect, but as being the spot where Wallace posted his army previous to his engaging and routing the English, in the ever memorable battle of Stirling, an account of which will be given in a subsequent page, when we bring more particularly under our observation the field on which it was enacted.

Directly in front of the Abbey Craig, and immediately under our eye, are situated the two bridges. The New Bridge is a handsome and stately structure,

stamped with the impress of solidity and strength, and finished in a style of architecture equally elegant and chaste. The foundation-stone of it was laid with much pride, pomp, and circumstance, with all the usual parade and formality of masonic honours, and amid the greetings of thousands of spectators, on the 8th September, 1831. The building was executed by Mr. Mathieson, from a design by Robert Stevenson, Esq. Civil Engineer, and on both these gentlemen the work reflects the highest professional credit. About a hundred yards to the westward of this substantial edifice stands the Old Bridge, an ancient relic, much admired for its spacious and lofty arches; venerable from its antiquity; beautiful from its situation; and interesting in the highest degree on account of its celebrity in Scottish history. The precise date of its erection cannot be ascertained; but from coincidental circumstances connected with antiquarian research, it appears to have been built about the close of the fourteenth century, and has been in existence of course considerably upwards of four hundred years. On this bridge the primate of the kingdom, John Hamilton, Archbishop of St. Andrews, was hanged, on the 1st of April 1571. Hamilton was a particular friend of Queen Mary; had baptized her son, and was devotedly and zealously attached to the interest of his sovereign, during the whole of her turbulent and tragical reign. He was attainted of treason under Murray's regency, and took refuge in Dumbarton castle, which the queen's party had kept possession of since the commencement of the civil wars. This fortress, strong in situation and

works, was negligently kept, and was surprised under night by a small but determined band of the young king's faction, under Lennox, (who had in the interim become regent), who seized upon the prisoners, and sent the primate, whose zeal and abilities had rendered him both odious and formidable, under a strong guard to Stirling, where, after a form of trial, he was publicly hanged; and on the fourth day after he was taken, the ignominious sentence was carried into execution. He was the first bishop in Scotland who died by the hands of the executioner.

In 1645, the occupation of the town and bridge by a garrison of covenanters, forced the celebrated Montrose, previous to his fighting the battle of Kilsyth, to cross at the ford of Frew, about six miles further up the river; and in 1715, before the battle of Sheriff-muir, the circumstance of the Duke of Argyle encamping his small army in the King's Park, and occupying the important pass of the bridge, completely paralyzed the operations of the Earl of Mar, though he was at the head of an army supposed at one time to have numbered nearly 10,000 men. In 1745, the defence of the town and bridge by the royal army forced Prince Charles, like the Marquis of Montrose, to cross at the ford of Frew. Blakeney, the governor of the castle, caused the south arch to be destroyed, in order, as Chambers says, to intercept the Highlanders, both in their march south in parties to reinforce Charles, and in their retreat northwards on desertion. Charles, on his return from England, took the town, but not the castle; and after his retreat to the north, in 1746, the Duke of Cumberland,

when following him, was obliged to supply the place of the deficient arch, by logs and boards of wood. At what time the arch was rebuilt cannot be precisely ascertained. It is alledged that this bridge had originally no side walls, and that on a minute examination these will be found to be much more modern than the body of the bridge. Without depending too much on the authority whence we derive this information, it is nevertheless indisputable that the edifice, in the lapse of ages, has been sadly curtailed of its fair proportions. As appears from the bridge itself, and the painting of it over one of the doors of the interior of the Town-house, it had anciently a gate-way leading through two small flanking pillars at the south end, and another gate-way leading through two similar pillars at the north end, with two square towers in the centre, now reduced in height to a level with the parapet walls.

From the spot which we now occupy may be pointed out the fields of numerous deadly conflicts; indeed the whole plain at one time or other seems to have been a perfect theatre of carnage. The scene, however, is changed; and while the eye rests with ecstacy on the luxuriant prospect, the philanthropist cannot but contemplate with delight, the happiness, tranquillity, and peace, now so unequivocally offered to his view.

CHAP. VIII.

Sketch of the Fortress.

The exterior of the castle, at the present day, presents an appearance of considerable strength, although, in modern warfare, it could not hold out for any length of time against a regular siege. The most formidable as well as the most ancient of the batteries appears to be that called the "Seven-gun-battery,"—from seven of its guns being on the same platform. This battery completely commands the bridge. The date of its erection is unknown, and must be remote. Immediately adjoining on the south-east is what is called the Lower or French battery, mounting eight guns, four of which point to the bridge, two in the direction of St. Mary's Wynd, and two to enfilade the outer fosse. Level with the bottom of the ditch are two gun-ports in the wall, unfurnished with guns. This battery was constructed during the regency of Mary of Guise, Queen of James V. This, with the other exterior batteries, bomb-proof barracks, &c. erected during the reign of Queen Anne, towards the town, are all without the ancient southern gate of the castle, which, with its posterns on each side of the gate, were defended by double portcullises each. On the west the fort is impregnable, from the height and ruggedness of the precipice. Here, however, are two cannon, mounted at

a projecting part of the rock, called the Ladies'-look-out, to sweep the face of the cliff in the event of any mad attempt to scale it.

The castle had anciently two principal gates—one to the north and another to the south. That to the north passed through a long low-browed archway, into a lower part of the hill, adjacent to the *ancient* castle, called the Nether Baillery. This, also, has evidently been long surrounded by a strong wall. Two postern gates, one to the west and another to the north, led from this place through the wall, the remains of the zig-zag paths from both of which, on the steep acclivity, are yet distinctly visible. The rybats of these entrances are still in the wall as originally laid. The one facing the west is immediately within the old park wall, and one of the common sewers of the fort passes under it. The postern facing the north is not so readily distinguishable at a short distance as the other,—but the old narrow road, winding from the bridge, through what is now known by the name of "Glencoe," fronting the hollow of Castlehill, and ascending the southern slope of the pass of Ballengeich, after making an abrupt turn leads directly to it. Within these entries the ground is now raised many feet above the ancient surface—and the modern additions which have been made are evidently very considerable. A great number of arrow-heads and other relics of former ages, have been dug up in this enclosure. Here are now the principal magazines of the garrison, erected some thirty years ago, and here is likewise the principal well.

Approaching through the esplanade or parade-ground towards the castle, and passing the draw-bridge and two gate-ways of the out-works, we come to the ancient principal entrance, now the only one to the older part of the works. On the left hand here is a garden, and on the right is the French battery, and directly in front is the old gate-way, bearing every mark of antiquity, over which the flag-staff stood.—Passing through this ancient gate, we enter a fine court, bounded on the west by the eastern front of the palace, on the east by the ordnance store-keeper's house and the seven-gun-battery, on the north by the fine southern gable of the parliament-house, and the ancient dark arched gate-way leading to the Nether Baillery. Moving forward betwixt the north-eastern angle of the palace and the south-west corner of the parliament-house, through a narrow gate, we enter a beautiful square. This equilateral court, on the summit of the hill, is bounded on the west by the more ancient buildings of the castle, comprising the deputy-governor's house and others, erected on the very brow of the rock; on the south by the palace founded by James V., and finished during the regency of his queen, in a singular but superb style of architecture; on the north by the chapel built by James VI. on the site of the chapel-royal erected by James III.; and on the east by the parliament-house, originally a fine specimen of Saxon architecture, projected and finished during the reign of the latter monarch, but now much defaced by modern improvements.

The buildings on the brow of the precipice on the

west side of the court are of a plain and antique character. Part of them at least are supposed to be of a date prior to the reign of James II.—a closet being still shewn where that monarch is said to have stabbed the Earl of Douglas in 1452.* It appears that at this period the royal apartments were in these build-

* William, Earl of Douglas, was one of the most callous, cruel, and insolent nobles of that semi-barbarous age; and even went so far as to defy alike the threats and entreaties of royalty itself. James was fully alive to his power; saw its increase and his own consequent danger; and felt his throne actually tottering below him. Douglas and the Earls of Crawford and Ross had entered into what they were pleased to term a bond of mutual defence; but though this was ostensibly the purpose of the league, there is strong presumptive evidence that the real object of it was the overthrow of James's government. The king having been made acquainted with the conspiracy, called a select council to deliberate on the measure, when it was resolved to induce Douglas to attend the royal court. On the promise of friendship, and an assurance of personal safety, he visited his sovereign, by whom he was cordially entertained, nothing having occurred to mar the harmony of the intercourse, till after supper, when James requested Douglas to accompany him into an inner chamber, where were only a few of the king's most intimate counsellors. Here James began to remonstrate with the Earl on his late treasonable proceedings, and entreated him to break the engagement which bound him to such traitors as Crawford and Ross, and to return to his allegiance. Douglas replied with insolence; even broke into reproaches; upbraided the king with having driven him to the measure; and that he would not withdraw himself from his best friends to gratify the boyish caprice of his sovereign. James immediately lost all command of temper, broke into a most ungovernable rage, drew his dagger, and exclaiming, "False traitor! if thou will not break the band, *this* shall," plunged it into Douglas' bosom.

ings. The closet where the murder was committed is now thrown into the deputy-governor's drawing-room. This apartment, known indifferently by the name of "the King's closet," and "Douglas's room," is a small room very elaborately decorated in an ancient taste. In the centre of the ceiling is a large star, having radii of oak, and around the cornices are two inscriptions, which translated run thus:—"Holy Jesus, Saviour of men, and Holy Mary, save the King," and "James, King of Scots."

The exterior of the palace, dilapidated and weather-worn as most of its statuary ornaments now are, still presents sufficient evidence to enable us to know, that originally it had been one of the most splendid buildings of the day. The whole is in the form of a square, with a small court in the centre called the Lion's Den, where, according to tradition, the King's lions were kept; and where apertures through the walls are still shewn, by means of which they were fed. The projection adjoining to the palace on the south-west is believed to be of higher antiquity than the body of the building itself. It is recorded of James III. that he "beautified Stirling Castle by the erection of a palace," about the same time that he erected the chapel-royal and parliament-house. In all probability, therefore, this palace, with the exception of the square projection alluded to, had been pulled down by orders of James V. to make way for the present one.* And, indeed, we can scarcely prefer the

* This supposition is not countenanced by tradition, yet current in the environs of the castle. Oral testimony says, that the old Pa-

appearance of the new palace, with all its unearthly images and monstrous ornaments, to the plain substantial specimen extant of that massy fabric, which had then been demolished. This older portion of the building is not without its honours. Here our "Scottish Solomon," imbibed the classic lore of his distinguished preceptor, George Buchanan. Here that learned and good man compiled his History of Scotland,—and last, though not least,—in one of the apartments, now the castle joiners' work-shop—that salutary *a posteriori* application of the birch to youthful Majesty was made, which gave so great offence to his governess,

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lace erected by James III. was accidentally destroyed by fire, and that the old walls, with the exception of the south-western part, were removed by James V., to make way for the present palace. By the same authority, we are informed, that during the conflagration, which occurred during the night, the Royal Family very narrowly escaped destruction, and that, but for the presence of mind, and exertions of one of the maids of honour, this had certainly been the case. The fire it seems had originated in an apartment adjacent to that in which this lady slept, but before she awoke, the flames had completely surrounded her room, and the only passage thence to the royal apartments presented one sheet of fire. Resolved, however, at all hazard, to alarm the King, or perish, she had the presence of mind to denude herself of every article of clothing, as the more likely mode of receiving least injury, if she succeeded in her attempt,—and, rushing through the flames, had the good fortune to secure, not only her own safety, but that of the whole royal household, before the fire had extended to their particular part of the edifice. It is added that this lady's memory, and her laudable and successful atttempt to preserve the royal family of Scotland from destruction, are yet commemorated in that statue called at this day, "The Modest Maid," on the eastern front of the Palace.

the Countess of Mar, when she demanded to know why his instructor dared to lay his hand upon "the Lord's anointed."* A spiral stair, in a ruinous state, ascends through the three several floors of this old building to the roof, communicating with the palace door, opposite the second floor. This door is now built up. From the battlements here, a window, projecting from the roof of the palace, and fronting the south, is still shewn as that of Queen Mary's bed-room. The initials M. R. surmounted with a crown, *in relievo*, in the old manner, are yet entire on the lintel.

The palace on the south, east, and north sides, is decorated with a profusion of sculptures. The cornicing is particularly beautiful and varied. On each of the three ornamental sides, are five slight recesses, under Saxo-gothic arches, from the centres of which, rise, close to the wall, ranges of ballustrade pillars, wreathed, spiral, or carved, upon pedestals supported by grotesque figures springing from the base, and each of these pillars is surmounted by a statue. The statues on the south and east sides are principally mythological. On the northern front, however, they partake more of this world's order. The first from the north-eastern angle is certainly one of the royal founder him-

* The cause assigned by tradition for this so long remembered flagellation is the following:—It seems James had been approaching the castle from the town, when meeting a few boys amusing themselves with a young sparrow, he begged it of the youths, who sturdily refused to give up the little bird, when James, irritated at the refusal, and perhaps at its manner also, snatched the bird from the boys, and crushed it to death.

self. It represents him as a surly-looking man, dressed in a hat and frock coat, with a bushy beard, and a dagger in his right hand. This statue stands on a square column less embellished than the others, the lower pedestal of which is supported by a female bust, regally adorned, emerging like the others from the wall. As it is recorded that the external ornaments of the palace were executed after the king's death, and during the regency of his queen, Mary of Guise, it may be conjectured, with much probability perhaps, that this female bust, supporting the statue of the king, may have been intended for a representation of herself, and consequently in her view—the dependance of the Scottish crown on an alliance with France, her native kingdom. Over the head of the king's statue an allegorical animal extends a crown, with a scroll, on which are engraved the letter I and figure 5 for James V. which are also seen above almost every window of the edifice. The statue of a young man next the king is said to be that of his cup-bearer. Among the supporters springing from the wall on this side, Cleopatra with the asp on her breast, and Hercules with a serpent in his hand, are, however clumsily they had been executed, still recognisable. The parapets above the cornices are, or rather were, *defended* by rows of statues of smaller dimensions; now from their exposed situation, many of them broken down or defaced by time, and their exposure to every blast. The walls and ceiling of the lower flat on the northern side, part of which was occupied as a chamber of presence, were, previously to 1777, adorned by a multitude of figures,

carved in oak, which, with much probability, were supposed to represent the persons of the king, his family, and courtiers. Those ancient carvings were, from their disjointed and loose state, at this time, taken down, and would have been lost but for the exertions of Mr. Brown, then keeper of the prison, to collect and preserve them. Forty years afterwards, these relics of antiquity, which during that time had remained in the jailor's apartment of the prison, attracted the attention of the lady of the late deputy-governor, General Graham; and drawings, not only of these, but of others which had found their way into the possession of other individuals, were made by her and an artist of the name of Blore, and then given to the world in a series of engravings, in an elegant volume, entitled *Lacunar Strevilinense.* Those which were in the jail have now been transferred, as has been already noticed, into the Justiciary Court-room, adjacent to it. The lofty hall which they formerly adorned, although still dignified by the title of "the king's room," is now a mere barrack for private soldiers.

The chapel erected by James VI. for the scene of the baptism of his son, Prince Henry, in 1594, occupies the northern side of the court. It has been long converted into an armoury and store-house. The architecture is plain, with semi-circularly arched windows and entrance, the latter being adorned on each side by two plain Ionic shafts, with a sort of Corinthian capital, surmounted over the door by a connecting entablature slightly projecting. In the interior of this chapel is stil preserved models of the castles of Edin-

burgh, Stirling, Dumbarton, and Blackness, surmounted by a crown, all carved in one piece of wood. This ornament was originally suspended from the centre of the roof. Of the chapel-royal erected by James III. on the site of which the present was built, we know nothing—no particular description of it being, so far as we know, now extant.

The parliament-house, erected by James III., forming the eastern side of the square, was originally a noble and magnificent fabric. In the alterations necessary for converting it into a barrack, its appearance has suffered much. The beautiful Saxon windows which once adorned its lofty and substantial walls, are, with the exception of those in the gables, all built up and replaced by others of a diminutive size. The side-walls have been all rough-cast with lime—the long slender niches despoiled of their statues,—and although several small figures of monks, fortalices, and crowns, appear *in relievo* peering through the lime, the perhaps more interesting pieces of sculpture which once adorned the walls, are all away. James III. besides erecting this spacious hall, and the chapel-royal, or college of seculars, which he endowed most liberally, is recorded to have repaired and embellished such of the other buildings as had then fallen into decay.

(Sketch of the Fortress continued.)

CURSORY OBSERVATIONS.

To an attentive observer, and one who delights to cherish the memory of our gallant forefathers in their

deeds of fame on this "Rock of Strife,"—many remains of antiquity here present themselves, calculated to inspire the patriot with a holy flame, and even betimes, in his moments of enthusiasm, to awaken a wish that it had been his lot to have existed in the world some centuries ago, and to have shared in those deeds of renown which have shed so much honour and glory on the hardy sons of Scotland, in the defence of their country against their "Suthron foe."

The northern and southern principal gate-ways of the old boundaries of the castle, are of a date unquestionably very remote; and if it be allowed that the deputy-governor's house and adjacent buildings to the south, are of a date prior to James II., the antiquarian, from inspection, will not hesitate, it is presumed, in assigning to the gate-way at the palace, and the long arch-way at the Nether Baillery, a higher antiquity. The square building and terrace on the south of the palace—the remains of the western wall of the buildings, which at one time evidently were connected with the range occupied by the deputy-governor, &c., and the seven-gun-battery wall,—are of a date apparently coeval; but these gate-ways are decidedly more ancient than either. Two additional flanking towers, now demolished, had at an early period added to the strength of the southern gate. The foundation of the western one is still visible, covered with ivy. The old buildings to the west of the palace occupied a considerable area. This now vacant space is called "the Ladies'-look-out." Here we are shewn the foundation of the chapel, anciently dedicated to St. Michael, afterwards called "Queen

Mary's chapel," from the queen-regent, Mary of Guise, having here attended mass, and otherwise exhibited her attachment to the Romish ritual. This chapel is said by tradition to have been of superb architecture, both externally and internally. In 1559 it was demolished under the hallowed auspices of the Lords of the Congregation, after their rupture with the faithless queen-regent—not one stone of it was left above another, and the whole materials tossed over the adjoining precipice. The western side of the palace presents now nothing but a plain wall, with a few modern windows, and the projecting remains of a wall which had been connected with the buildings attached to it, previous to the days of the covenanters. Whatever buildings besides Queen Mary's chapel had anciently stood here, are now all razed; but from the remains of foundations still traceable, we are led to believe, that within this area there had been several—and these comprising, perhaps, part of the more antiquely-decorated portion of the whole interior of the castle. We cannot blame our forefathers,—persecuted as they were for conscience' sake, and labouring, as they did, under so many privations,—for their works of devastation, and for the zealous fury which they exhibited, in destroying even the vestiges of every thing which they deemed to smack of idolatry, and savour of "the mother of harlots;"—but in these modern times of comparative liberality and religious liberty, we cannot help expressing our deep regret that Stirling castle, in particular—a place so celebrated in the annals of antiquity—a royal residence, and the scene of so many

warlike exploits—should have been exposed to the reckless vengeance of a body of men, actuated only by infuriated religious zeal; and that several of the more ancient and interesting edifices within its walls, should, by them, not only have been ransacked and despoiled of their ornaments, but razed to their very foundations.

Looking from the Nether Baillery to the wall above, we readily distinguish the more ancient parts of it. In a projecting angle we observe two flanking loop-holes,—such as those whence arrows were shot in remote times;—and in the mean time it may be remarked, that in several parts of this enclosure, not a spadeful of earth can be turned up without at same time exposing a number of human bones,—so dreadful had been the carnage in former ages. Whether these bones be partly those of the English, slain here during the memorial siege which the castle sustained against the vast force under Edward I., it may be difficult to pronounce; but this spring (1835), while workmen were trenching the site of the Dominican monastery churchyard, behind the Bank of Scotland's new office, great quantities of human bones were found in a much better state of preservation. This church and monastery, it is well known, were, with many others of the neighbourhood, demolished by the Reformers of 1558-9, and no interment is believed to have taken place there since.

Directly over the northern gate-way, is an old building, called "the king's brew-house," underneath which, on the west side of the arch, is a room believed to have been a soldiers' guard-house. The entrance to

this room is built up. The rybats and lintel of the door, however, are to be seen in the wall, a few yards within the arch from the interior of the castle. Old people who have been acquainted from infancy about the fortress, state that under the parliament-house, adjacent buildings, and indeed within the ancient limits generally, there are many subterraneous vaults, secret passages, spiral stairs, together with numerous zig-zag excavations in the solid rock, the entrances to which are now either unknown or shut up. In corroboration of these traditionary reminiscences, it is worthy of being mentioned, that about twenty-five years ago, when the present ordnance store-keeper's house was being erected, the workmen, while digging the foundation, came upon several vaults, which they found had originally been a sort of *depot* for parties of soldiers to facilitate sallies from the garrison, and that these arched rooms had communicated with the interior and exterior of the fortress, by a spiral stair and narrow sally-port. There are yet the remains of some flanking out-works without the southern gate—several apertures for the shooting of arrows being still to be seen in the older parts of the parapets of the present path-way, immediately leading from this gate.

Such is a sketch of the fortress of Stirling castle as it at present exists, to the best of our humble ability. It is the result of minute enquiry and careful examination upon the spot, and it is hoped will prove not unacceptable to the readers of our "Description of Stirling."

CHAP. IX.

Note of Antiquities in view of the Fortress.

We may premise our summary of ancient remains within view of Stirling castle, by observing, that without a doubt, the Romans had extensive fortifications here, on the several ridges of the rock. The fact mentioned by several antiquaries, who were themselves eye-witnesses of their remains—that so late as A. D. 1600, the ground at the Guild-hall, now occupied as a Bowling-green, was fortified with three several fosses and ramparts "so high that men on horseback could not see over;" the Roman inscription on the summit of a basaltic column, yet partially extant, on the height north of the pass of Ballengeich, and the appearance of the Moat-hill itself, confirm our premises beyond the possibility of contradiction. Indeed, the heights, from the church to the bridge, are believed, at an early period of the Roman invasion of Caledonia, to have been occupied by the veterans of Rome. Antiquaries differ in opinion regarding the Moat-hill. Some think that it was originally a Celtic fort, and this prior to the commencement of the Christian era;—others that it is decidedly Roman. We incline to the latter opinion—because on the Abbey Craig there are the remains of a stronghold, on a larger scale, precisely similar, where, not a great number of years ago,

several relics of armour, besides coins, were dug up, known to be Roman. Both on the Moat-hill and Abbey Craig there are specimens of vitrification. Portions of the enduring basalt has actually, by some mode of applying intense heat, now unknown, been reduced to a state of fusion. Where this has been the case, however, we invariably notice pieces of fine white sandstone locked in the mass. Much pains seem to have been taken at one time or other to facilitate the ascent to the Moat-hill. The path-way gradually ascends in a gentle curve along the south-east side—and the sides of the height all around, with the exception of that to the west, have been smoothed and dressed. It may be remarked, that the Duke of Argyle, in 1715, before crossing the Forth to fight the Highlanders on Sheriff-muir, erected a battery of field-pieces on the Moat-hill to sweep the bridge in the event of any emergency; and it is recorded that the artillery-men here stationed, upon witnessing the discomfited remnant of a troop of dragoons, who had been in the run-a-way wing of the royal army on that memorable day, galloping towards Stirling, became panic-struck, forsook their guns, and fled to the castle. In 1745, a part of the army under Prince Charles had so much confidence in the range of a few cannon which they had obtained, that they dragged them to the ancient fort on the summit of Abbey Craig, whence they believed they would be enabled to demolish the castle, at a distance of nearly two miles. While toiling up the steep narrow winding artificial path on the north of the hill, towing their guns, tradition states that one

of them, which had been furnished with a lock and shotted, accidentally went off, and destroyed a number of the Highlanders.

From the esplanade of the castle we observe, furnished with a spy-glass, a conical mound peering into view beyond the second height east of the village of Bridge of Allan. This tumulus or cairn, composed of earth and stones, is unquestionably artificial, and of considerable size. It is the only one now undispersed in a wide district, and is still called "the Roman look-out." On the opposite side of the river Allan, and on the farthest off height directly north of Lecropt church, we behold a clump of trees, planted about fifty years ago, on the site of an ancient fort of a circular form, originally surrounded with a series of terraces, which were then demolished. The great northern Roman road by Ardoch, passed about 500 yards to the west of this fort, which, according to Richard's Itinerary, corresponds with the ancient *Alauna*. Still farther to the westward we see, (from the Ladies'-look-out,) about a mile north-west of Keir house, the Hill of Rew, where are still to be seen the remains of a Roman out-post station, 35 paces square, commanding an extensive prospect to every point of the compass. There are several large druidical stones, and the remains of a *Cromlech* in the vicinity. Almost due west we recognise the dark outline of Moss Flanders, still of great extent, although slowly receding westward, where have been dug out, from a great depth below the present surface of the moss, at various times, innumerable relics both of the aborigines of the country,

and their invaders, the Romans; and where, while the surface was covered with a dense forest, the Celtic tribes found a secure asylum from the ravages of the conquerors. The destruction of this forest is generally ascribed to Severus, who otherwise found it impossible to secure the safety of his legions from the attacks of the natives, or to dislodge them from their sylvan strongholds.

Aware of no other Roman or Celtic antiquity in sight of our castle, if we except several druidical circles and cromlechs on Ben-Ledi, &c. we shall now notice a few of the more ancient buildings within our view, the ruins of which are still extant; and from the spot where we now stand, Doune Castle is the only object which arrests the attention. The grey ruins of this old stronghold,—from their massiveness and extent, and the great natural strength of their site, being an elevated peninsula, formed by the junction of the water of Ardoch with the Teith,—are sufficient to enable us to know that Doune Castle had been in its day, if not itself the strongest, at least one of a very few of the strongest secondary fortresses in the kingdom; and vastly superior to every one of its kind north of the Forth. It belonged to the Earls of Monteath, and is conjectured to have been built about A. D. 1340, although possibly it may be of a still older date. The walls of the great court attached to the castle are forty feet high and ten feet thick, and the whole mass of masonry, towers, vaults, arches, and stairs, had been of the most substantial kind. Subterraneous communications with the rivers Teith and Ardoch are tradi-

tionally said to exist from the interior of the fortalice by now unknown passages; and although we are told there are still open vaults and dark entries under ground, within the premises, we have not heard that any attempt has been recently made to explore the recesses, and describe their extent. Doune Castle was chosen by the unfortunate Duke of Albany, regent of the kingdom, as a favorite place of residence during the captivity of James I.; and in sight of its turrets, say some of our historians, the old man was beheaded. If this be true, however, the execution could not have taken place on the Moat-hill, as no part of Doune castle is visible from it, but either within the boundaries of the castle, or on the height immediately adjacent on the north. Margaret of England, widow of James IV., is related to have been remarkably fond of Doune castle, where she resided for a considerable time; and the "beauteous Mary, Queen of Scots," is also said to have occasionally visited the place, where she sometimes passed a week at a time. So late as 1745, this fortress was in a state of good repair, and even then, "so great was considered its strength, that M'Gregor of Glengyle, with a handful of men, and a few small cannon on its walls, felt himself enabled to hold it, as he used to boast, for Prince Charles, during all the time the Highland army were in England." This would be, however, no difficult matter, as not the slightest attempt was made to wrest it out of his hands. This venerable relic of the feudal ages has been long the property of the noble family of Murray, who derive from it the secondary title of Lord Doune.

The remains of old edifices to the eastward of Stirling, in view of the castle, are not numerous; and on the south and north, the prospect being limited by hills and eminences, there are none of any note. In the foreground, on the east, the stately Tower of Cambuskenneth Abbey,—being, with the exception of a small portion of a wall, all that now remains of that once extensive and rich monastery,—still presents a solemn and gloomy appearance. On a nearer inspection, many marks of its high antiquity are discernible. The dilapidated aspect of the external surface of the walls,—its antique Gothic windows,—the decayed mouldings of its once superbly arched door,—and the narrow spiral stair-case to its weather-wasted battlements and turrets,—all conspire to indicate the distant date of its erection. Beyond Alloa, amid a clump of aged trees, we recognise the Tower of Clackmannan,—a venerable relic of the olden time,—sacred in the eye of every Scotsman, from its adjoining palace, now demolished,—having frequently been the residence of the immortal deliverer of his country,—the hero of Bannockburn, King Robert Bruce. His sword is still preserved in the Tower, and shewn to the curious stranger. Every vestige of the royal mansion is now extinct,—but the tower, which is a tall and impressive building, is almost entire. It is still maintained in a habitable state of repair, and was recently occupied by an old lady, a lineal descendant of Bruce himself. North of the village of Tullibody, the old church of that parish, before it was united to Alloa, in the earlier period of the Reformation, is not un-

worthy of notice. During the civil and religious broils betwixt the Lords of the Congregation and the queen regent, Mary of Guise,—the kirk of Tullibody was unroofed by the French soldiers, at the time cantoned in that neighbourhood, who had been sent from France to assist the queen in her tyrannical endeavours to suppress the Protestant faith in Scotland. These troops, during the breaking-up of a severe snow-storm in the month of January, 1558–9, finding themselves hemmed in on the south by an English fleet in the Frith ; on the east, by a banded army of Church Reformers under Kirkaldy of Grange,—who by the way like his co-adjuting "Lords," no doubt acted no less from interested motives than religious principle ; and on the north and west by the Devon, swollen exceedingly, from the rains and melting snow on the Ochils ; and who, moreover, upon approaching the only bridge which then spanned this river, near its junction with the Forth ; finding that Kirkaldy had taken care to have the arch destroyed to render their escape impossible, the expedient of unroofing the neighbouring kirk luckily entered into their heads, and was resorted to, by means of which they effected a passage across the stream, and secured a safe retreat from their incensed enemies. The roof was removed bodily, and borne to the banks of the Devon on the shoulders of the soldiers. After this the church continued in a dismantled condition for a period of more than 200 years, when it was again covered in by George Abercrombie, Esq. of Tullibody, grandfather of the present

Lord Abercrombie, and is now the burying aisle of the family. It was roofed anew a few years ago.

We shall close these notes with an enumeration of the principal battle-fields within view of the fortress.

Looking from the western boundary of the Nether Baillery, and casting the eye towards the north-west directly beyond Raploch toll-bar, we see Kildean-ford at an abrupt turn of the river. Here was the bridge in Wallace's day, the piers of which were of stone, and the narrow platform across of timber. At low water, and in time of drought, the sites of the several piers manifest themselves at this day in groups of large stones, the summits of which appear above the surface of the water. The first onset of the Scots upon the devoted English, under their mighty leader, in 1298, is believed to have taken place on the north bank of the Forth, about a mile from Kildean-ford. The Romans, it may be remarked, are believed to have erected the original bridge at Kildean, upwards of a thousand years before the battle of Stirling. From the southern battlements of the palace, the whole field of Bannockburn appears in view, as also the scene of the lamentable encounter betwixt the divided Scots at Sauchie-burn in 1488, which cost the king of the Scots, James III. his life. The battle-ground on the heights of Sheriff-muir is discernible from the seven-gun-battery. The short but bloody encounter here took place in November, 1715, between the northern clans under the Earl of Mar, and the government forces under the Duke of Argyll. A large block of mountain whinstone, called "the Carlin's Stane," marked with

deep indentations on all sides, is still known by the country people in that district, as a stone where many of the Highlanders sharpened their claymores and the points of their dirks, immediately before the commencement of the fray. No portion of the ground near Kilsyth, where, under the Marquis of Montrose in 1645, the Highlanders achieved such a rapid, fearful, and bloody victory over the parliamentary forces in the civil wars of Charles I., being in view of Stirling castle; and little or no parts of those sanguinary fields of Falkirk, where Edward I. in 1299 succeeded in defeating the brave Wallace, and killing Sir John Graham, through the ill-grounded jealousy of the other leaders,—and where Prince Charles, in 1745-6, routed the royal forces under General Hawley, in so brilliant a manner; we simply mention that such occurrences took place in the neighbourhood of Stirling,—besides, in ancient times, as we have strong reasons to believe, many other equally bloody and sorely contested battles, unrecorded by the more ancient historians, and which are now consequently veiled in the shades of oblivion.

CHAP. X.

The Back Walk.

Having now told you of many things about the town and castle which are worthy of being seen, you must bear with me a little longer while I constitute myself your Cicerone, and exhibit to you the *Back Walk*, and the prospect which it commands. It may be proper to inform you, before I begin, that you may make up your mind for a serious infliction of gossip,—for like Jonathan Oldbuck, having a good listener, I shall not be sparing of my talk, but shall once for all discharge my memory in one copious shower, which has hitherto had only such occasional opportunities of distilling in small and unseen drippings as were presented by the few intelligent individuals whom I have encountered in my diurnal crawlings upon the far-famed Back Walk. My reasons for treating you in this manner are twofold:—1st, Because I have you completely in my power; and, 2dly, Because I believe you have left home with such a stock of easy good nature, that it will be difficult to eradicate it from your bosom; or if you have not laid up such a fund, I would advise you either to return with the very first conveyance to your own fireside, or to do your utmost to drive away from your heart *ennui*, and all undue irritation. For he who sets out upon a tour of pleasure, without first

having expelled all those *carking* cares which even at home stupify the mind, is very ill fitted for the enjoyment of those pleasures which it is the very purpose of his journey to overtake and to enjoy. Banish then from your thoughts all cares concerning your business; for be assured you cannot mend the matter. It is presumed you have taken care that you cannot be robbed or plundered of thousands or even hundreds in your absence, so that if it be only tens you must just set it down to the expenses of your tour, and go on with the firm determination of pleasing and being pleased, and of proceeding with equanimity, whatever may come in your way—whether in the shape of an ill-cooked dinner, a hard bed, or a loquacious guide; nay even a stubborn horse, and perhaps a no less stubborn driver must just be borne with, for you cannot help yourself; and to grieve at what one cannot help, is foolish, and strikes at the very root of enjoyment.

There is an exquisite happiness to a man of business in that ease and elasticity of mind which is capable of enjoying a summer tour, removed from the cares that so constantly press upon us in the ordinary routine of life. This happiness consists in that equanimity of mind and buoyancy of spirit which enables us to feel alike delighted with the stern nakedness of rocks and muirs, the gentle undulations of a fertile upland district, or the uniform luxuriance of a deep alluvial territory,—to feel an equal pleasure in climbing Benlomond, or sitting on a mole hill contemplating the tiny but often beautiful plant which decorates either, and which causes us to listen with the most

apparent gravity to the interminable narratives of the local story-teller. The state of the mind is every thing;—unless it is attuned aright, home is preferable to any place.

The Back Walk, upon which you now stand, was made at various times, and is about one mile and a third in length,—from Wolf Craig at Port-street, where it has its commencement, to Moat-hill or Hurly-hawky, where it terminates. In general the prospect commanded from this walk, throughout its whole distance, is the most enchanting that can be found any where within the same compass; but as generalizations, unless ably executed, and to this I do not aspire, are always indefinite, it will answer the purpose equally well to examine the subject in detail; and this will be the more interesting, as the historical recollections will then be associated with the localities to which they refer, and with which they are imperishably associated.

From Wolf Craig,—deriving its name from the circumstance, that some time long ago, when Stirling probably first began to be a town, a wolf was observed to be reclining upon a rock, and which was henceforth assumed to be the crest of the town, with the motto *Oppidum Sterlini*,—to the place we are now at—Cowan's hospital, where we intend to commence our description,—the walk is so shrouded with trees as to prevent you from seeing to any distance, but which is the less to be regretted, as the ground is too low to command any distant prospect. A little above this, however, the trees terminate and

the view enlarges. However, before we entirely leave the covert of the trees, you may observe a stone close to this seat, with the word "Visitation" upon it in two lines. This stone is understood to have indicated, when it was in the church-yard, the spot where the persons were buried who died of the plague, the last time Scotland was visited with this terrible scourge about the year 1664. In looking over the records of the Kirk-session of Stirling, from which we have made a few extracts, we discover that the pestilence had visited Stirling in the years 1604, 1606, and 1645, before the last visitation in 1664, which seems to have been the most severe, as so many remembrances of it are still extant. Thus it appears that four times within 60 years was Scotland desolated by the plague. Whether we may attribute the stopping of the dreadful disease in our country to the improvements of modern times, or simply to divine providence operating through and blessing the persevering exertions of the police regulations of the country, we leave to the decision of the diviner and philosopher. Certain it is our country now has as little fear of the plague as if no such disease existed. There is a strip of land between two hedge rows to the east of the town, which bears the name of "the Dead-rig," from its being a burying place during the prevalence of the same disease. At this time the burgh lost the whole of its magistracy through the same agency, and it is rumoured by tradition, that much property, some of which can be yet pointed out, came into the possession of persons who had previously no kind of legal title to it. The mar-

kets were held out of the town, at a place called "Craignaise," three miles to the westward, where a small knoll, over which the public road now goes, is pointed out, upon the ridge of which the people from the uninfected districts brought their produce, and leaving it, retreated to a safe distance, until those from the infected districts took what suited them, and placed the price of the commodities in a pot suspended upon a large fire, where it was purified from any infection that might have attached to it.

There is an affecting anecdote still remembered in the neighbourhood concerning this plague. Immediately to the north-east of the town there is a small farm called "Shiphaugh," which has been tenanted by a family of the name of Kay, for some hundreds of years, and who still are in possession. At the period of the plague there were two sisters, daughters of the then tenant, going to church in Stirling, and passing through a field now called the Cow-park, one of them found a velvet neck-lace which she put round her neck. The result was, both of them were speedily seized with the distemper, and died within a short time of each other;—their grave is in the piece of ground which is now used as the stack-yard to the farm.

Having now cleared the trees and reached a pace or two above the seat erected for the "accommodation of the aged and infirm," a splendid prospect now discloses itself to your view. Standing with your face to the south, upon your right hand, in the distance, are seen Benledi and Benlomond towering above the

intermediate range to a considerable elevation. In the fore-ground, but still among the hills, is seen the district of Aberfoyle, long known as the country of the celebrated Rob Roy of black-mail notoriety; and one of a warm imagination could almost imagine, in a fair summer morning that he sees Bailie Nicol Jarvie, suspended from the stunted tree by the "gude braid claith." In the front, but undistinguishable from the lowness of the situation, is the ford of Frew, where Ewan allowed Rob Roy to slip the cord and escape, an action for which he is heartily excused by the people to this day. This district, including the parishes of Aberfoyle, Callander, Kilmadock or Doune, and Port of Monteith, was anciently denominated Menteath, a title which is scarcely extinct to this day. The carse now intervenes between the north hills and the Campsie hills on the south. These hills present a striking feature in the landscape; for although not so high as the highland hills, yet being nearer they are better seen, and more distinctly marked. One, however, is a little displeased at the uniformity of outline presented by them,—there being very few trees, and none of them far upon the hill, which gives considerable tameness to the scene. A good way down the hill, and upon the estate of Touch, there is a very pretty waterfall, called "Gilmour's Linn," formed by Touch-burn, falling over a precipice of thirty feet in height. The scenery around is beautifully wooded, and the approach from below very romantic. Higher up the hill is a larger stream, called "the Earl's burn," I suppose from the ancient title of the Earl of Kil-

syth. Upon this stream the Carron company have lately built a large dam for the purpose of collecting the water to supply their work at Carron. Farther to your left, and approaching nearer to the town, the ground becomes less elevated, and assumes more of an undulating character. Here are some very rich coal-fields, known locally by the names of Auchenbowie, Plean-muir, Greenyards, and Bannockburn. Between these coal-fields and the burgh lies a piece of ground sacred to the feelings of every Scotsman. Where is the inhabitant of Scotland that does not approach the field of the battle of Bannockburn with feelings different in their nature from those with which he approaches any other place? He sees with reverence the burn, trifling indeed in itself, but which, through the admirable arrangements of Bruce, served as a barrier to the implacable enemies of his country; the bog which served as a flank to Bruce's little army he contemplates with veneration, and is apt, in the heat of imagination, to bestow the name of patriot even upon the marsh;—while the Bore-stone, which supported the royal standard of Bruce, he considers as the palladium of Scottish liberty, and remembers with less regret the removal of the sacred stone from Scone. Nearer the town the names of "Clifford Park," and "Randolph Field," recall to his memory the sanguinary conflict upon the evening before the battle. A little farther to the right, the Gillies'-hill or Craig, as it is sometimes called, points directly to the panic which seized the English; and the intensity of his feelings are relieved by the idea that his brave country-

men have time to breathe after the agonizing toils of a very unequal fight. Now the steel-clad baron and the buff-coated lowlander doff their bonnets and helmets, and wipe their brows; while the bonneted and kilted highlander lays aside his target, and wrapping himself in his plaid, reposes in the proud consciousness that his country is free, and that he, under Heaven, is the author of its liberty. In the meanwhile the fiery yet sagacious Lord James Douglas is off in full chase after the fugitive Edward, who escapes only through the treachery of the Earl of Dunbar. Upon the whole, every Scotsman who views the scene of this battle-field, feels a thrill of delightful emotion pass through his soul, and for the moment rejoices that he is a Scotsman.

Nor can even an Englishman, with all his prejudices full-blown, if such prejudices exist now-a-days, view this scene without admiration. The courage that could dare the unequal strife, after so many defeats; the tact and perseverance displayed in achieving the victory; and the noble generosity exhibited by Bruce to his prisoners afterwards, which induced numbers of them to adopt Scotland as their country, and to serve under the banner of such a hero as Bruce proved himself,—must convince him, that if his countrymen were conquered, it was by the first general of the age, at the head of an army innured to every vicissitude of fortune but that of victory; and of this change in their relative circumstances, he is glad to think they were worthy. Nor must it grieve him very sore to think that henceforth his country had to treat with Scotland

as a free and independent nation, and the only thing for which he feels his face suffused with a blush, is the grasping and unprincipled ambition of some of the best and wisest of his own kings.

The next subject to which the same locality calls our attention, is not of a nature so pleasing. It is the battle of Sauchie, where a misproud aristocracy arrayed themselves in deadly strife against their sovereign, James III. This battle was fought a little higher up the hill than the field of Bannockburn, at a place called "Little Canglar." Milton Mill, a little to the east of the battle ground, points out the place where the unhappy king was villanously slain.

At the village of St. Ninians you will observe the church is at a little distance from the steeple. This singularity was occasioned by the Pretender's army having made the church the magazine for their powder, but being pressed by the King's army, and finding it impossible to remove the powder,—as the most expeditious method of destroying it and preventing its falling into the hands of the royal army, they set a train to it and fired it, blowing up the church, but leaving the steeple untouched. Upon building the new church it was thought advisable to remove it a little from the old site, without regarding the anomaly of the steeple standing alone.

You may now move a few paces farther on, until you reach the corner of a hollow place called the "Valley." It was sometimes used during the reigns of the Jameses as the place of tournaments. This rugged rock upon the south side of the Valley still bears the

name of the "Ladies'-hill," from the circumstance of the ladies of the court having taken their station here to behold the mock encounters, as well as to encourage the knights by their presence and favour. The rock upon the west end, and which is enclosed and planted with shrubbery, is "Brandy-hill." The reason of this name I have not learned. By turning your back upon the Valley, you will have a view of the "King's Park." This park was and is still inclosed with a wall, although through the lapse of time it is much dilapidated, yet it is still a fence to the whole of the park, except where the public road passes through it. The entire park belongs to the crown, with the exception of the part of the rock upon which we are now standing, which belongs to the Earl of Mar, as far as a low fence between you and the King's Knot,—and is a perquisite belonging to the governor of the castle. The face of the hill below you, and it may be supposed some of the level ground likewise, is called the "Queen's Garden;" and there are or were very lately the remains of some guigne trees. At the bottom of the hill, there is a fine spring used for bleaching clothes, known by the name of the "Butt Well." From what cause it may have got this name is not known;—we may suppose then, that in the days of archery the shooting butts had frequently been placed here, and this idea is countenanced from its proximity to the castle.

You perceive a very striking object before you in these artificial mounds, where the cows are feeding. This is the "King's Knot,"—a name which is perfect-

ly meaningless, so that we are left to conjecture again ; we may therefore suppose, and we probably shall not be far wide of the truth, when we say, that there is some connection between the place and the so long popular stories of King Arthur and the Knights of the round table. Towards the right hand of the mound, is another, in low relief, which is not so perceptible, but yet still visible. This also is likely to have had some connection with the games and sports of the day. Around the whole, it is understood, there was once an artificial canal. This ditch, like the place upon the left of the knot, is said to be the remains of the canal, capable of floating a boat ; and that on some occasions boats have plyed upon its waters, bearing the ladies of the Scottish court.

Beyond this, upon the high ground, which alone now bears the name of King's Park, is the race course, over which races are occasionally run—especially by the yeomanry, in the end of July, every year. At a certain point upon the top of the King's Park, and which is accessible to every one, is the finest view to be had any where in the neighbourhood of Stirling. By simply turning yourself about, the whole landscape passes before you like a splendid panorama. Beyond the park, but concealed from view by the intervening high ground, is Coney Park Nursery, belonging to those public-spirited nursery and seedsmen Drummond and Sons. Here, there is to be seen in the months of August and September, one of the finest collections of that splendid Mexican plant the Dahlia, in every variety of shape and colour. The hedge rows are also very

fine, being of long standing and kept in excellent order,—the collection of roses is likewise very extensive,—indeed the whole nursery ground is worthy of a visit, and the Drummonds are very glad to see strangers. In our survey of the town, we purposely omitted, until we came to the walk, to mention particularly the exertions which are being made by the Drummonds for the improvement of that most important branch of national industry, Agriculture. In the year 1831 they opened their premises for the reception of specimens of the products of field labour. It was intended, at first, that chiefly extra individual specimens should be collected, which, however, was soon discovered to be a mere fraction of what might be accomplished. The want of facilities of communication, or a proper circulation of Agricultural Knowledge has been one of the most serious obstacles to the progress of the art. By extending their plan of specimens, with labelling, they have not only succeeded in removing this obstacle, but the effect of the whole has been a great additional impulse,—the collection forming what may not inaptly be called a model school of Agriculture.

There are now, in their Museum, some thousands of individual samples, all calculated in a greater or less degree to facilitate really practical improvements in husbandry. Among these are agricultural implements of every possible kind ; so that their place looks rather like a manufactory than a museum. But the agricultural museum must be seen, that its merits may be duly appreciated, and is well worthy of a visit from every

lover of his country, who will not be backward in awarding to the Drummonds, the superior merit of being the first to originate, as well as successfully to conduct, this mode of benefitting the country,—a mode which has been already followed in other districts; and, we have no doubt, will be still further extended, and which must ultimately prove highly advantageous to the entire community.

Farther on still is the village of Cambusbarron, so famous in the burlesque history of George Buchanan, for being the place, where if a criminal got under a stair, it saved him from the gallows. In these reforming days this notable privilege no longer exists; for there are stairs in the village. Through it goes the road which conducts to the pleasing scenery of the glen of Touch, and Gilmour's Linn—the waterfall formerly mentioned,—and which is not above four miles from Stirling. The late proprietor of the estate of Touch, Mr. Seton, after having spent the best part of a long life in India, was returning in order to enjoy, upon his patrimonial estate, the fruits of his toil in a foreign country, but died within sight of the coast of England. The estate is now held by Ranald Macdonald Esq. of Staffa, Sheriff of the County of Stirling. Here also some few years ago lived Citizen Jaffray. The following notices of the honest Citizen we know to be scrupulously correct, and even to come short of the truth,—we shall therefore give them a place here, and thus contribute what we can to rescue from a nameless grave, the memory of an individual of extensive benevolence.

CHAP. XI.

Citizen Jaffray.

The following sketch we give *con amore*, for we really loved the Citizen ; and if we fail in exhibiting him in a proper light, we hope the reader will blame our head rather than our heart. Few, and none that can lay the slightest claim to a feeling heart, could be acquainted with him for a moiety of the time of our acquaintance, and not love him. Even now,—at the end of seven years, since the old man died,—when we reflect upon his virtues, and recount his eccentricities, our heart bleeds at the recital ; and we could almost think we had seen him yesterday, so lively is the impression his active mind and body have left upon our recollection. We knew him only after he was sixty-eight years of age, and at this period, he had still very much of the fire of youth left in him ; and his limber, but well-formed and justly proportioned body, corresponded with the buoyancy and hilarity of his mind. Benevolence beamed in his countenance, and he seemed only in his proper element, either when he was attempting to introduce something new, or when engaged in some active work of substantial kindness. When he died, he left a void in the country which has not yet been filled up, nor is it likely to be filled up soon. For when will a man in his sphere arise, who will so disinterestedly confer such benefits upon society as the

Citizen did. The following brief notice of him appeared in the Stirling Advertiser; and as it is our own, and was written when the wound which his death inflicted was yet tender, we shall endeavour to avail ourselves, at least of its feelings, if not of its language, and at all events of its facts:—

The Citizen died on the evening of Thursday, the 13th of May, 1828, in the 79th year of his age. The cause of his being distinguished by the epithet, "Citizen," is, in general, matter of history; and arose out of his hailing, with very great satisfaction, the beginning of the French revolution. In this name he took more pleasure than in his own proper name, which was William; for he felt a great interest in the progress of those liberal principles which this great event fairly brought into play;—and although its progress was marked with bloodshed and tyranny, yet did he not forsake his principles,—for he knew that truth itself could not withstand, for a time, the evil passions, when let loose, of a people who had, up to this time, had their minds as well as their bodies enthralled by the chains of a despotic government. The general character of the Citizen, for philanthropy, was no barrier to him from the Argus eyes of those in power; for a warrant was issued for his apprehension. Accordingly the myrmidons of the law beset his house, but as he happened to be from home, they only apprehended his brother; who, in consequence of this mistake, suffered a confinement of some months. During this time, nothing would induce the Citizen to abstain from coming into town, and showing himself in public, and even

from visiting his brother in jail. Conscious of his own rectitude of principle, he disregarded alike the smiles or the frowns of the great, and set at defiance the terrors of the law; and never absented himself from kirk or market, or otherwise, so far as we can find, secreted himself for even one hour. Guilt he did not think he had committed, and he did not fear the law which would take cognisance of men's thoughts, and therefore never shunned it.

The circumstances which go to make up the narrative of an obscure villager's life, are, in the case of the Citizen, more than usually scanty; for he was born, brought up, married, and brought up his family, and finally died in the same house. But it was not such circumstances as being born, married, and dying,—things common to all men,—that rendered William Jaffray so distinguished as he was in the neighbourhood. His mind had a wider range, and it required something beyond the dull monotony of a village life to give scope to the craving benevolence of his disposition. This scope he found first in innoculation and afterwards in vaccination. When innoculation began to attract public attention, the Citizen became desirous of being himself the medium of communicating it to his neighbours. He began by trying the experiment first upon his own son, who is still living. This trial having succeeded very well, he persuaded some of his neighbours to allow their children to undergo the same operation, which was attended with success, and afforded high gratification to his own kindly feeling. He also operated upon some adults with good effect; and in this

manner was proceeding unostentatiously, but efficiently, in conferring lasting benefits upon his country,—but his experience soon convinced him that innoculation was not a perfect remedy for that loathsome disease, the small pox. He, therefore, hailed with ecstacy the growing popularity, founded upon utility, of the discovery of Dr. Jenner; and happening to be upon terms of intimacy with a respectable medical practitioner in the town, who had, like himself, been subjected to trouble, on account of his liberal ideas in politics, and especially with respect to the French revolution, he naturally concluded that this was the source to which to apply for information. Accordingly, he appeared in the doctor's shop upon the Friday following, with a face, in which there seemed somewhat more of an inquisitive turn than was usually indicated by the Citizen. He immediately asked the doctor a string of questions about the process of vaccination. When the medical man demanded of him the use he intended to make of this knowledge, he was answered, that he intended to innoculate the bairns in Cambusbarron,—his native village. "Weel, then, Wull," said the doctor, "in order to procure a supply of matter, when you go home, you may rub the dog's mouth with butter, and let the cat lick it." Upon receiving this answer the Citizen turned upon his heel, and after going home, wrote to Dr. Bryce in Edinburgh, who instantly supplied him with some of the best works upon the subject; as also a supply of matter, and the necessary operating instruments. Being thus equipped, he went forth now in the conscious dignity of a

real benefactor to mankind. Every Friday, either in the house of his friend, Mrs. Forrester, or in his own ware-room, which was just above, did he wait for hours, for the double purpose of supplying his weavers with work, or vaccinating their children. Nor did he confine his exertions, in this good cause, to Stirling and Cambusbarron, or even the parish of St. Ninians, extensive as it is, but made regular itinerating tours to the towns and villages of this populous district. His plan was, when he arrived in a town or village, to go into the house of some acquaintance,—and many persons were proud of the acknowledgment, on the part of the Citizen, of an acquaintanceship,—and to request those in the house to inform the people of the place, that he was there, and for what purpose. In this way he has frequently, after walking from six to nine miles, vaccinated from 80 to 120 children, and returned in the same primitive way to his own house in the evening. Once, when going to Doune, a friend accompanied him from Stirling, and who, when he had fairly got him engaged in this work, which he loved so dearly, went in pursuit of the town-drummer, and requested him to intimate to the townsfolk the arrival of the Citizen; and to proclaim, accompanied with an emphatic roll of the drum, in his loudest and most distinct manner, directly opposite the house in which the old man was operating. However, the effect upon the Citizen was not what was anticipated. He only lifted his head for a moment, and shaking it at his friend, said, "Aye, aye, Andrew, that's some caper o' yours." With his day's work, however, he was vastly satisfied; for he vaccin-

ated about 140, and returned home more light of heart and joyous in spirit than usual. On these itinerating tours,—as in all his labours in this cause of humanity,—his services were entirely gratuitous; and it was seldom he would receive even a meal of meat, lest he should put the people to expense. If in these, or any other of his journeys, he chanced to find a houseless wanderer and her child sitting under a hedge, he would sit down beside her, and compassionately inquire if her child had been vaccinated; and if answered in the negative, would then produce his implements and perform the operation; and on leaving, drop sixpence (it was all he could spare,) into her hand to provide for herself and child the next meal, and then proceed on his journey with his heart and pocket light. In short, his labours in this way were so abundant, and conducted so successfully, that he was able to say with truth, twelve years before his death, that he had vaccinated above 13,000 children, not one of whom, so far as his knowledge extended, ever took the small-pox.

It was very gratifying to the Citizen, that his neighbours, in his native village, almost wholly allowed him to vaccinate their children. There were, however, two families,—one at each end of the village,—who resisted this innovation as a new-fangled invention, to oppose, as they ignorantly imagined, the designs and workings of Providence. Our friend regretted this exceedingly, as he could not expect to succeed in effectually banishing this highly infectious and disgusting disease from Cambusbarron, without the concurrence of the entire population; but here, although he

found persuasion to be in vain, his object was accomplished in a very effectual manner,—for upon the next visitation of the distemper, each of the two families, although they lived at opposite ends of the village, was infected, and one in each died; whilst every other family in the place escaped. This was a triumph to vaccination, which gratified the Citizen very much,—for although he, in common with every man in the village, regretted the loss which his neighbours had suffered,—he yet justly thought that ultimately more good would result from these instances of perverse feeling, and prejudiced thinking, than the temporary loss sustained by these families.

It is very questionable if any poor man ever rendered himself so useful to the public, and conferred such lasting benefits upon society. If the calculation be a just one,—and we believe it is not very wide of the truth,—that one out of every four children born, died of the small-pox; and if we presume that for the last twelve years of his life he vaccinated 3000 children, which, added to the 13,000 formerly mentioned, gives 16,000,—one-fourth of which is 4000 lives which this one man has been instrumental in saving to themselves and to the public! What an idea, and how delightful to a benevolent mind, the contemplation of such an amount of good actually conferred. The motive which stimulated the Citizen in this, the cause of humanity, was as generous and disinterested as the zeal and perseverance with which he continued it were laudable; for at the time he commenced operations, the price for innoculating each child was half a guinea,

at the least,—a price which he considered as calculated very much to oppose the general progress of this beneficent appointment of Providence. To see the Citizen setting out upon a vaccinating tour, was quite a treat. Dressed, in the winter, with his long coat and a spencer,—his locks only slightly coloured with age, neatly combed down, and curling naturally about his ears, while they were trimly brushed back upon his forehead, with a slender walking-stick in his hand,—and his face beaming with humanity,—he considered himself as the messenger of good only; and the world and its wealth, which he never sought much after, and which never pressed themselves into his service, he left, upon these occasions, entirely behind. Nor did he ever regret the time he expended, nor the money he might have realised, had he prosecuted business with as intense a concentration of mental energy as he did gratuitous vaccination. So zealous a vaccinator, and one who had so much to recommend him to the public notice, was not likely to be long concealed, although he was stigmatised, by the local authorities, as a "friend of the people," and consequently, in their silly judgment, an enemy to the government and the governors. Accordingly the national vaccine establishment,—immediately after its erection, which seems, from an incident we are about to relate, to have been about the time our friend acquired the epithet of Citizen,—opened a correspondence with him. The incident arose out of this correspondence, and proves the degree of personal interest that even a public functionary, in a close rotten burgh, could take in the Citizen,

in the most suspicious of times. Upon one occasion, there came a rather large package, through the post-office, firmly and closely sealed up, addressed "To Wm. Jaffray, near Stirling, Scotland;" and it was indorsed "On his Majesty's Service." The post-master, only anxious for the safety of his friend, the Citizen, never reflected for a moment that this was not the way to apprehend a criminal, concealed the package, and instantly dispatched a trusty messenger to inform him that he had better place himself under hiding for a time, as a very suspicious-looking package lay in the post-office, addressed to him, and indorsed as above; but what was the surprise of the post-master when he saw the Citizen, who was in the secret, appear with his returned messenger, and demand the package in the open shop. Nothing could exceed his surprise at what he deemed the temerity of his friend. Upon the whole, it is a little singular, in the history of William Jaffray, that while he was in open correspondence with such an institution as the national vaccine establishment, which acted directly under the control of the government, and was lauded by them as a patriot and benefactor to the human race, he should be treated, by the legal authorities in Scotland, as an enemy to social order, and a wrong-headed fellow, whom it was perfectly right and proper to put down, at all hazards, as a disturber of the public peace. So differently do men judge, when the one takes theory as his rule, and the other the practice of virtue. Be this as it may, the Citizen, from this time, was never troubled for his political sentiments, and he did not change them till

the earthly scene closed upon him. He was henceforth considered as a privileged person. A person in direct communication with the government as he appeared to be, was wisely esteemed as above the petty malice of the local authorities.

When the vaccine establishment had learned from himself,—substantiated as it was with the attestations of properly qualified persons,—they began to reward merit so persevering and disinterested, in a manner which highly gratified the worthy Citizen. They first created him a regular corresponding member, with power to receive and remit through the post-office, packages indorsed "on his Majesty's service;" then they supplied him with fresh variolus matter, and promised to continue the supply; and remitted, besides, a new assortment of instruments for conducting his operations, and shortly after voted him, at the public expence, a handsome silver cup, richly embossed, with a suitable inscription engraved upon it. After the lapse of a few years more, and when he had added to his former fame by a continued perseverance, stimulated as it was by the expressed approval of such competent judges, he was constituted an honorary member of the vaccine establishment, and a diploma sent him to that effect, an honour enjoyed, because deserved, by only a few. Upon these decided marks of the public approbation of his merits, the old man set a particular value, and considered them as heir-looms to descend in his family to the latest generation.

There was another exploit of the Citizen, upon which he set a higher value than even upon his exer-

tions in vaccination,—the release of a female negro. This young woman had been brought from the West Indies to assist in taking charge of her master's family; and after remaining some time in Scotland, her proprietor was sending her back to his property in Jamaica. In the passage between Stirling and Glasgow, where he was carrying her to see her shipped off, he had taken a place for himself in the cabin of the canal boat, and left his slave to go into the steerage. Upon the same day, the Citizen and a Mr. Cunningham, belonging to Glasgow, both active and enterprising friends of humanity, had taken, from motives of economy, their place where the female negro was. They soon made themselves familiar to her by their kind enquiries concerning her fate; and having understood that she was proceeding to Jamaica, they concluded that she was returning to the state of slavery so detested by them both, and not, as they learned from the girl herself, much relished by her either. They then conversed earnestly between themselves for some time, and came to the resolution of communicating, to the young woman, the knowledge of the great constitutional fact,—that no slave could set his foot on British ground, and remain a slave. They then told her that as she was quite free, she was at liberty, upon her arrival in Glasgow, to follow her own inclinations; but as she was an utter stranger, if she chose to follow them, they would carry her to a magistrate, and have her liberty officially and publicly acknowledged. If, on the other hand, she chose to follow her master, she must abide the consequence of returning to Jamaica,

and probably become the mother of more slaves. Upon her arrival, the love of liberty, so natural to the human heart, prevailed over even the habitual obedience she had yielded to her master, and she followed the Citizen and his friend, who, after they had got her liberty publicly recognised, exerted themselves effectually in procuring employment for her, without which, her freedom would have rather been a curse than a blessing. Upon the appearance of the Citizen in Stirling next Friday, we did think that he had attached a higher degree of personal importance to himself than was usually indicated by the appearance of his outward man. His spencer was more nicely brushed and more justly accommodated to his person; and his locks, of which he was always proud, were, if possible, more neatly combed, and his hat had, from the mere elation of his mind, assumed something of a jaunty air,—while his customary slight walking stick was transformed into a formidable cudgel, which he brandished over his shoulder with the air of a man who was inclined to use it in clearing his way of every intruder. Certain it is, there was not one circumstance in his pretty long life, that afforded him so complete and full a satisfaction,—for we have frequently heard him say, that it was well worth a man's while to live a long life, if he could accomplish such an object at the end of it. Worthy Citizen! what would have been the state of mental enjoyment felt by thee hadst thou now lived, when there is not a slave in the king's dominions? Thou wouldst have been proud in belonging to a country, that had dignity of mind sufficient to bestow,

through its representations properly and fairly chosen, twenty millions of pounds for the liberation of slaves! To thee, this would have been a true feast; and thy mental appetite would have enjoyed it to perfection.

It is natural to suppose that such a man possessed a mind of peculiar construction;—and so he did; for he was ardently and passionately attached to novelty;—not, however, because any thing was merely new, was he attached to it; but because he hoped it might prove either useful or agreeable. If a novelty should prove neither the one nor the other, as he was the first to receive it, so he would be the first to discard it. He was the first in his native village, excepting a young lady, that carried an umbrella, which he exhibited to great advantage in his progress to church the first Sabbath after he had it;—his wife, who had more of this world's way of thinking than her husband, keeping at a considerable distance behind him, for fear she should be called proud; and until she should learn what was the opinion of the neighbours upon this new-fangled and conceited-like invention. Such an idea never entered the cranium of the Citizen; it was enough for him if it was an improvement, and likely to be useful. The ideas which any or all of his neighbours might form, weighed very little in his mind. "If I save, by my umbrella," said the Citizen, "my new hat, while my laughing neighbour is getting his drenched with the rain, let the winner laugh."

I have known the Citizen, after he was past 70, rise at three in the morning, and walk a distance of 13 miles over valley, moor, and mountain, and return in

the afternoon, carrying in his handkerchief a mule-canary, with some of its feathers more fantastically arranged than any other he could find. He took much pleasure in teaching black-birds and starlings to perform tunes, and the reward he sought for this labour was—a large price for the feathered songster, says a cool calculator;—no; but that it might be placed in the street of some populous town to charm the city *virtuosi*.—A great part of his attention was occasionally given to flowers, which he cultivated in his garden with great care for a while; but his prevailing thirst for curiosity and novelty soon displaced them for others, which soon shared the same fate,—the last being always better than those that preceded them. Bees he admired at first for their curiosity, but here he was under the necessity of descending ultimately to what was to him the ignoble idea of making them the means of profit; yet it is questionable if ever they afforded him much good in this way; because, from the peculiar temperament of his mind, he could not bestow upon these curious insects the care which they require at certain seasons of the year, nor would he allow any one to dictate to him in this matter. However, he received from them a large fund of amusement.

Another characteristic of the worthy Citizen was, that when any of his acquaintances died, and he not invited to attend the funeral, it never occurred to him that in many cases he might be deemed too insignificant a personage to be invited; he more generously concluded he had been forgotten—and getting his black coat, with his best hat and staff, he sallied

forth with that erect posture peculiar to himself, and which at once bespoke the dignity of his mind, and the lightness of his heart. The Citizen had a great aversion at seeing his wife with a hat upon her head. A mutch of the first quality, his finances could reach; he would willingly allow; but hats he abhorred. He and his wife were, upon one occasion, going to Edinburgh, and called at a friend's house by the way. The friend's wife did not think it proper for Mrs. Jaffray to visit the metropolis in her mutch only, and pressed her to adorn her head with her friend's hat. The Citizen said nothing at the time; but when upon the road, he seemed like a person who had lost his companion. At last he made a dead stand, and looking earnestly into his wife's face, said, "Preserve me, is that you Meg?" and ever after, he was wont to say, that his wife never had a hat on but once, and he lost her upon that occasion.

But our remarks, like the life of our hero himself, must come to a close; and all that remains refers to the closing scene. The first intimation, of a direct nature, which reminded the Citizen that his life was drawing to its termination, was a fall he got in returning from church in the evening. The effects of this fall,—which in his youthful days would have amounted to nothing,—clung to the old man with a tenacity which too certainly indicated a breaking-up of his hitherto good constitution; for although he lived five years longer, yet was it not with even a tithe of his former vigour. His journeys were less extensive, and were, besides, performed with much greater trou-

ble to himself. He was likewise frequently compelled to apply for medical advice; and the doctor would sometimes look in, when not called, just to see the Citizen; whom he, like every other person who knew him, loved. Upon making one of these chance calls, in the month of April, when the ground was still very damp, he found his patient reclining at full length upon the grass, apparently enjoying a clear blink of sunshine, and watching the working of his bees. The doctor rated him as the most incorrigible patient he ever had. When the well-known friendly admonition reached the tympanum of the Citizen's ear, he leaped up, and with well-feigned vivacity, declared, "that he was determined to bring himself up hardy." He was 76 years of age at this time. When drawing nearer to the close of life, his ordinary medical attendant was most assiduous in his visits; and frequently went, accompanied with another gentleman of the same profession. Once, when both were present, they proposed that the patient should be blistered. To this the Citizen seemed to submit with resignation, while the doctors were present; but no sooner did the thing begin to make itself felt, than he indignantly tore it from his breast, declaring, "that the twa young chields had come to try their experiments upon him, but he would take care of them;" and immediately the plaster was lying on the floor. Nor could any persuasion bring him to allow it to be re-applied. In a few days after this, he quietly died, and passed into that new and untried state whence none returns. A few minutes before he died, he called, with a hale voice, the roll of

his family, familiarly naming each of them, as he had been in the habit of doing while in health; and stretching his arm from under the bed-clothes, shook hands with one of the female members, and in the quick and hurried manner which had become habitual to him, bade her and them "Farewell,' then turned his face to the wall and was no more.

The last incident we shall mention, exhibits the Citizen as equally desirous of benefiting society by his death, as he had proved himself the friend of humanity during his life. About the time of his last illness, the country was very much agitated by the horrors committed in Edinburgh by Burke and his fellows; which irritated the people very much against the medical profession. The Citizen, sympathising with the faculty, regretted the scantiness of subjects for dissection, and requested that his own body should be assigned to this purpose, which, however, was not required. This was being benevolent even in death.

Once more, the Citizen was an exemplary attendant upon the public ordinances of religion. In theory, indeed, his religious sentiments were tinged with a certain extravagance, which seemed quite congenial to his mental taste, and which were, like his other failings, harmless, and characteristic of the man; "For even his failings leaned to virtue's side."

CHAP. XII.

Back Walk continued.

Let us again move forward a few paces, until we are abreast of Snowdon House,—so called, from the title assumed by James V. in the Lady of the Lake. This house was the property of the late Dr. Doig, son to the celebrated teacher in the grammar school, formerly mentioned, and who amassed a decent fortune, practising as a physician in Jamaica. His widow now inhabits it. From this spot a more extensive and comprehensive view may be had of the district, west and north-west from the castle, than from any other point. The most prominent object in the foreground is Craigforth, that wooded eminence, rising up in the very bosom of the carse. It is principally composed of a rich iron ore; and would, but from the distance, have been purchased by the Carron company long ago, for smelting in their furnaces. Thanks to the situation, that it still forms a pleasing feature in a rich rural district, instead of dealing death and destruction among mankind. It is the property of James Henry Callander, of Craigforth and Ardkinglas, late Member of Parliament for Argyleshire. As there is no particular historical recollection connected with it, and as we have no traditionary lore concerning it, we shall leave Craigforth with all its beauties to speak for itself.

We may as well at this spot introduce the individual who is the subject of the following notice, and who has for many years been considered as one of the local curiosities of Stirling, and especially of the Back Walk,—his constant haunt in good weather.

BLIND ALICK.

This is Alexander Lyon, but better known by the appellation of "Blind Alick." This man is now upwards of 70 years of age, and has the appearance of great wretchedness and extreme misery, being left a prey to filth, with all its disgusting accompaniments. He is possessed of an expansion, a precision, and a minute accuracy of memory seldom equalled, and which is exhibited principally in reciting the Scriptures, which he quotes with the precision of the printed text itself; and this he can do, too, in such a manner as to begin any where an enquirer may wish, regardless whether it be in the middle, at the beginning, or the end of a chapter, citing at the time, if required, book, chapter, and verse; and he will proceed then, if you desire it, to the end of the Bible, without missing a word. Although this accuracy refers chiefly to the Scriptures, the following anecdote will shew that his memory is equally precise in other matters:—The late Mr. M'Laren, highly respectable as a teacher of youth, and at whose school Alick had acquired his knowledge of the Bible, was visited, for the first time, by Mr. James Gray, author of the Arithmetic for Children, from Dundee. When shewing his friend the curiosi-

ties of the place they encountered Blind Alick at the corner of Cowan's Yard, now called Spittal's Square; and giving Mr. Gray some account of the man, requested him to speak to him, but not to mention Mr. M'Laren's name. He did so, and was so highly gratified, that, at parting, he put half-a-crown into Alick's hand. At the end of another year, Mr. Gray again visited his friend, Mr. M'Laren, and again they encountered Alick at the same spot,—as every body was sure to do, who went in pursuit of him at the same hour. Mr. Gray, at parting, asked him if he remembered him. "Ou, aye," says Alick, "you are the gentleman that gave me half-a-crown at this place last year, at this same time of the year." It is lamentable to add, that with all this maturity and precision of memory, his judgment, from want of accustoming himself to reflect, is so scanty, as to be unable to deduce the slightest inference from the stores of his memory. Alick's range upon the walk is confined to a narrow compass, and it has hitherto been found impossible to accustom him to extend his perambulations to a wider range, than that to which he had been familiar in his youth. How different is he in this particular, from many other blind persons who fearlessly thread their way through crowded streets, in the midst of many obstacles.

From the bottom of the rock on which Stirling is situated, round about Craigforth, and stretching far west, is the *west* carse of Stirling,—so called from the direction in which it extends. The whole level and

alluvial ground on either side of the town is denominated, by way of eminence, *the Carse*. This is the genus. Specific names are derived from the parishes in which they chance to be situated,—as the Carse of Lecropt, of Kippen, &c. This strath of country forms one of the granaries of Scotland,—producing wheat, beans, and all the other useful and necessary vegetables, in the greatest perfection. The husbandry of the district, we conceive to be founded upon the wisest principles; the farms never being so large as to make it immaterial whether this or that corner may not be improved, nor so small as to be under the management of sheer poverty; but in that just medium which makes the most of every thing; and which, at the least expense, brings the largest amount of produce to the market. We think the proprietors deserve praise for not giving way to the mania for large farms, which possessed many parts of the country, during the high prices of agricultural produce, in the time of the late war. Although this district has been long famed for its fertility,—having its origin in an excellent system of tillage,—yet its productive power has never been brought into proper play, until the late improvements in draining. This admirable system has added very materially to the value of carse ground. It may be stating too much, to say what may be the real amount, added to the value of an acre of ground, by this one means. In some cases it is more, and in others less; but in every case it is allowed to be the most essential and useful improvement in agriculture of modern times, and that it has added somewhere about a sixth

to the productive powers of the soil, and consequently to the food of mankind, as well as to the value of the estate. The crops in the carse are generally of the most luxuriant description, being both heavier in head and longer in the straw, as well as being better in the quality than in lighter soils, even under the best of management. The rent for carse ground runs from 50s to £4 10s.,—according to the qualities of the soil, the proximity to markets, or the facility with which manure can be procured. The system of tillage is a rotation of six years, viz.:—wheat, beans, barley, grass, oats, and summer fallow. When the rotation again commences, very few cattle are kept, consequently no turnips are raised, and generally no more potatoes than are wanted upon the farm; hence the necessity for the regular recurrence of summer-fallow for cleaning the ground. Trenching is hurtful in the carse; as the sub-soil is an indurated clay, incapable of producing any thing, until it has been long exposed to the influence of the atmosphere. The manures chiefly in use are those made upon the farms, or collected in the towns and villages, with large quantities of lime.

On either side of the carse, the ground begins to assume an undulating appearance, and rises gradually until, on the south, it terminates on the Touch and Campsie hills, and on the north-west and west, on the high Highland hills; and it is here, in these mountainous regions, that the splendour of the scenery seen from the Back Walk consists. In a fine summer day nothing can exceed the beauty of the landscape; especially if the sun be shining through broken clouds, as is frequent-

ly the case;—or, when after a fine summer night, the mists, admonished by the approach of the monarch of the day, are beginning to disperse. Sometimes the whole carse is covered with a fleecy and cloudy mantle, not above 20 feet deep, displaying the tops of the trees,—and even, sometimes, the roofs of the houses. Craigforth then resembles nothing so much as an island on the bosom of a lake. At another time the clouds of mist ascend higher, and are seen rolling along the outline of the hills, exhibiting the most fantastic appearances, but moving along, attracted by their congenial element,—the waters of the ocean. This is the certain forerunner of a fine day. When the mist is seen coming from the sea, the contrary will happen. Again, when the clouds are lowering and betokening rain, the distant hills retire behind the clouds, and the expansive landscape is limited to a very narrow scene. But the grandest sight obtained from this spot,—and this is the proper place for seeing it in perfection,—is the summer sun setting; but about this glorious object there is an indescribable grandeur, which far transcends human language to describe, and to be felt, it must be seen;—and there are few who would not like to see the splendid luminary of heaven descend behind Benledi, leaving upon the contemplative mind a feeling of seriousness and awe, admirably in keeping with the stillness and peace of the chastened twilight, which immediately succeeds.

The next object to which I would now direct your attention, is Blair-drummond Moss. And here you may be moving on while I am informing you of it; you

discern part of it by the end of Craigforth. The brae, as we move along, is richly stocked with plants, and is a fine study for the young botanist. There is a Verbascum which flowers in July, and which Hooper in his Flora Scotica, fixes here as its habitat; Convolvulus Minor is also very abundant. The *Blessed* Thistle appears often in the spring, but is always destroyed or removed; a few samples of Henbane, and a single Atropa Belladonna, shed their lurid influence around these; while the Viola Oderata perfumes the early spring. There is also among the rocks a single black cat, which seems to have deserted civilized life, and taken up its solitary residence among the loose rocks below, where it is sometimes seen in the morning twilight. A colony of jack-daws have from time immemorial had their stated residence among the high rocks, below the houses, and maintain their post, independent alike of the firing of the cannons, and of mischievous boys;—they seem never to increase much.

The piece of ground then called the *Moss*, is a few square miles of country which was lately lying under a superincumbent mass of peat moss and heath, from six to ten or twelve feet thick. In order to remove this incumbrance, and render the land arable, Lord Kames let out the property to poor people, in lots of about eight acres, in leases of fifty-seven years. During the first nineteen, there was no rent exacted; during the second, ten shillings and sixpence the acre; and during the third, twenty-one shillings. In order to complete the object his Lordship had in view, he placed a large wheel, upon a stream of water,

brought from the river Teith, in the immediate neighbourhood, for the express purpose. This wheel, going with the current of the stream, was fitted up with buckets which were filled with water in their descent, and emptied in their ascent, into a trough, placed for its reception. Thence it went off in a channel previously prepared for the current. In this manner a sufficient stream of water was conveyed through the whole length of the moss. It was then, in order to accomplish the object originally intended, led off into the different allotments of land, where the tenant had a part of the light spongy moss, which was unfit for fuel, cast into a trench communicating with the river Forth, whither it was borne by the stream of water admitted from the artificial channel. The moss below, which was of a closer texture, was then cut up and dried for fuel. Upon this moss, there were ultimately located between two and three hundred families, by whose industry, upwards of two thousand acres of as good ground as is in the carse, have been rescued from perpetual sterility, and rendered available for producing valuable crops of grain, which formerly only produced a little fuel,—and that, too, in a country where coal is abundant. Such a scheme richly deserves the appellation of patriotic, and reflects great credit upon the memory of Lord Kames and his advisers. A goodly number of the families brought up in the moss, are emigrating to America, as the term of their leases approaches. However, a considerable number yet remain, and the process of clearing is still going on.

Major Graham of Meiklewood, a few years ago, tried the same experiment, but upon a different principle. By the industry of labourers, hired for the purpose, with the assistance of a steam-engine to supply him with water, he succeeded in a very short time, and at comparatively small expense, in rescuing about three hundred acres from unprofitable sterility; and rendered it susceptible of rewarding the labour of the agriculturist. While such exertions tend, as they ought, to enhance the value of the proprietor's estate, they also contribute to the improvement of the country, and are therefore justly entitled to our meed of praise.

There is still a large tract, under the dominion of moss, upon the estate of Cardross; which it has hitherto been found absolutely impossible to remove, in consequence of the want of water. Surveys have been made, and levels taken, to try and obtain water; but this desideratum can only be procured, if procurable at all, at such an expense, as it would not be justifiable, even in the proprietor, to burden himself and his estate with; and this is the more to be regretted, as, from the scantiness of the population in that district, the fuel which may be procured from the moss, to any amount, can be turned to very little account.

Having proceeded thus far, during the description of the Moss, you may stop here a little, with your face to the north, and near to Ballengeich, as there are certain prominent objects which will obtrude upon your notice. The first of these is to be found at that turn of the river, where there is a toll-bar, and where the three roads meet. This is the situation where the

river was bestridden, in ancient times, by a narrow wooden bridge, before the stone bridge at the *Winechells* was built. Here the battle of Stirling was fought, under Warren, Earl of Sussex, commanding the army of Edward I. on the one side; and Wallace, the Scottish patriot, at the head of his countrymen, on the other. Wallace hearing, while in the north, that Warren was advancing with a large army against him, determined to meet him half-way; and knowing, from the disposition of the people, that Sussex would be under the necessity of crossing the Forth in the neighbourhood of Stirling,—as he would find it difficult to obtain vessels to transport such a large body from the south to the north side of the river,—hastened, by forced marches, to encounter him before he could effect a lodgment on the left bank; and he arrived just in time. Learning that the English army intended to cross the Forth upon a certain day, he took care to have the bridge sawn asunder, and then fixed the cut places with a bar of iron,—secured, for the time, with a moveable bolt, *Scotice* a pin. Under the bridge, a man was suspended in a basket, who, upon a signal previously agreed to, was to undo the bolt. The commander of the English, having observed the Scottish army on the other side, objected to crossing the river upon the narrow wooden bridge, which would admit of only two abreast; until he was shamed out of his prudence by Cressingham, a greedy ecclesiastic, who was treasurer for Edward, and who expected to share a large booty by the certain defeat of the Scottish army. Wallace, in the mean time, in order to induce Sussex to send over

his army, concealed a large part of his own men behind the hill called Abbey Craig, on the left of his position. Sussex, partly deceived by the stratagem of Wallace, and urged on by the military inexperience of Cressingham; who, however, to justify the sincerity of his advice, passed over with his troops, and payed, with his life, the forfeiture of his temerity,—ordered the troops to advance. Column after column did Wallace allow to pass, ere he gave the fatal signal; and now that he had got the army divided, by the intervention of a broad and deep river between them, the preconcerted signal was at last made,—and the man who had sat with the greatest coolness imaginable in the basket, with a hammer drove out the bolt or *pin*, when Wallace and his army completed the destruction of this body of men; and so total was the havock, that Sussex, within a few days, was found in the north of England, without any army. The tanning of the skin of the treasurer points at once to the idea entertained of his rapacity by the people of Scotland, and to the horrid nature of the war in which he was engaged. The man who was suspended was called Wright,—probably deriving his name from his profession. His descendants, it is said, in the right lineal descent, are still in the town, and are able to trace their genealogy.*

The small tract of country on which this battle was fought, is called "Cornton," and well deserves the name. It is divided among a number of small pro-

* The truth of history constrains us to acknowledge that this fine story of the "Pin" claims no higher authority than local tradition

prietors,—no one holding more than an ordinary sized farm. The Earl of Mar holds a feudal superiority over at least a part of Cornton; and is entitled to a considerable feu-duty in consequence.

The hollow way, upon your right hand, which leads through between the rock upon which the castle is built, and the height upon the north, is "Ballengeich," or the Windy Pass, as Gaelic scholars translate. It is celebrated as the name which James V. sometimes assumed, when he chose to go among his subjects in disguise.

You may now step forward until you come to Hurly-hawky; but you may observe, by the way, the curious shape of some of the rocks; and especially of one of them, where, at the top of a natural pillar, a lintel stone stretches from the side of the hill, and rests upon the top of the pillar, forming a natural bridge. Upon this side of the hill alone, although facing the north, are primroses to be found; while upon the sun-

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for its foundation; at least we have not been able to deduce it from any higher source. On the contrary, history seems to affirm the opposite; for Tytler asserts that at the close of the battle, when Sir Marmaduke Twenge was advised by some of his followers to throw himself into the river, as the only hope left of joining the English army, he answered, "that he would not run the risk of drowning, when he could, by an effort of courage, cut his way through the Scottish forces in possession of the bridge,"—which he accordingly did, and rejoined the army by it, which it would have been impossible for him to do, had the bridge been broken down. However, the story is a good traditionary story, and sounds well; and therefore we have given it a place in our pages.

ny side there are none. Here also, in the end of May and beginning of June, Columbine grows in great quantities, adorning, in its season, the side of the hills with its beautiful blue flowers. There is something very singular about the locality of plants. Upon a large scale, and in such a country as Mexico, where, by the particular conformation of the country, you ascend, within the space of sixty or a hundred miles, from the scorching heat of the province of Vera Cruz, to the comparatively mild region of Jalapa, and then to the still cooler region of Mexico Proper,—it is not wonderful to see the different kinds of productions prospering in the region best adapted to their growth; but in such a small place as the Rock of Stirling, to perceive the distribution of plants, all of which are capable of prospering in the soil of either of the situations,—is, to say the least, worthy of a passing remark. About one hundred and twenty yards beyond Ballengeich, but placed upon the top of the height, is the stone formerly mentioned, which is understood as intimating the residence of the Romans.

The homely name of Hurly-hawky, bestowed on the spot upon which we now stand, is supposed to be derived from the circumstance, that, in ancient times, children were in the habit of amusing themselves in sliding down the inclined plane, formed by the slope of the hill, sitting upon the skeleton of a cow's head; *hawky* being, in Scotland, a common name for a cow. This circumstance is a proof, among many others, of the low state of mechanical invention in Scotland, in old times, when even the wealthy classes,—for it is

concerning their children of which the above is affirmed,—were under the necessity of employing so uncouth a play-thing for their amusement, as the skeleton of a cow's head. Whether the name Moat-hill, also bestowed upon this eminence, has a reference to its being a place of defence, as an out-work to the castle,—serving as it might do either for such—or for what, from its situation, it might be called in modern language, a *tete-de-pont*. Or Moat-hill may be a corruption of Moot-hill, and then it would become a place where cases of dispute were settled,—the place where justice was distributed; as, in the city of Carlisle, the hall in which the assizes are held is still called the Moot-hall. The height which lies between you and the castle still bears the title of "the Gowling Hills," vulgarly pronounced Gowan Hills,—from the affecting circumstance, that upon this eminence the last sentence of the insulted laws was carried into effect upon the guilty Murdoch, Duke of Albany, and his family, in the days of the stern and inexorable James I.;—a severe but very necessary example in a country like Scotland; which had, for a great length of time, been given up to anarchy and misgovernment by this same duke and his more guilty father. Any person even only partially acquainted with the history of Scotland during the reign of James's father, and his own forced detention in England, through the nefarious practices of Albany, will allow that they who scrupled not voluntarily to relax the salutary firmness of the laws, in permitting the nobles to domineer over the country according to their own pleasure, that his own ambi-

tious scheme of maintaining himself in the regency might be effected,—met with a fate severe indeed, but necessary alike for the well-being of the country, and the security of the power of the laws. This example was a proof, and a severe one, of the sincerity of the king; when he,—after his long detention in England, and upon the first view he had of the total state of confusion and misrule into which his country had been plunged, and under which it was suffering at the very core,—affirmed, "that if he lived, he would make the bush keep the cow." To such an unexampled height had the miseries of the people arisen at the time, that it is recorded of an individual and his daughter, having embraced the horrid idea of systematically entangling and slaying their fellow-creatures for food. In the above case, the king acted according to the dictates of good sense and sound discretion; knowing, that the broader the foundation is upon which the power of the king is founded, the more likely is it to be permanent; and that it is bad policy to suffer any part of the community to obtain superior political power,—because this cannot be accomplished without depressing the other parts; and the king well knew that his power lay in the affection of the people, where all true power has its foundation, whether it is perceived or not. But the ideas of the king were too refined for the period in which he lived, and the people whom he governed; and he fell a sacrifice to his temerity.

Just below you there you perceive the old bridge, famous throughout Scotland, as being the only land

passage between the south and the north of Scotland. When the bridge was built, is not certainly known. However, it is not very ancient; nor is it understood to be so old, by two centuries, as the time of Wallace, when the bridge was at Kildean, about half a mile farther up the river. This bridge was originally built upon the principle of defence, as well as of convenience, and points to a period, in the history of Scotland, not of very remote date, when the produce of the country was brought to the market upon the backs of horses. It has for a long period been a serious grievance, both on account of its steepness, and its narrowness, and has lately been replaced by the handsome new bridge, not many yards distant from it. The arch of the old bridge, nearest the town, is of more modern date than the others; it having been destroyed in 1745, to intercept the Highland army during the insurrection in behalf of the Stewarts, headed by Prince Charles in person. The proximity of the two bridges must remind every reader, of Burns' "Twa Brigs o' Ayr;" but we are not a Burns, and consequently have not the slightest intention of making a poem upon the subject. A few days before the trysts of Falkirk—which are held three times a-year,—on the second Tuesdays of August, September, and October,—the number of cattle and sheep which pass the bridge is immense; especially for the September and October markets. There cannot, upon some occasions, be fewer than from thirty to forty thousand head of cattle, and nearly fifty thousand sheep, which all pass this one bridge; and so closely do the droves sometimes

follow each other, especially upon the Saturday; that upon the occasion, a few years ago, of a dispute concerning the number of the cattle in a drove, at the toll-bar of St. Ninians, the cattle were stopped, and so all the succeeding droves, until the entire road through the town and on to Causewayhead,—the small village at the bottom of the hill, and at the end of the road leading from the bridge, upon the whole a distance of three English miles,—was one dense mass of cattle and sheep, so closely crammed together, that Wellington with his conquering heroes would have found it a perfect barrier to his farther progress; and his army would have found it a much easier process to eat than to charge their way through it.

Another striking object, near at hand, is a huge old tower called the "Abbey Tower," which is all that now remains of the great monastery of Cambuskenneth; once the residence of a mitred abbot, and was very richly endowed. It was founded to commemorate a battle fought, and a victory gained, by Kenneth II. over the Picts; by the result of which that people were finally subdued, and Kenneth, king of the Scots, became sole monarch of what is now called Scotland; at least this is the definition given of the name Cambuskenneth, or the field of Kenneth. We know, as has already been mentioned, that the Abbey was founded by David I. long after the death of Kenneth. Tradition, from the name, seems to point to a battle; for in the early and rude ages nothing else was traditionally remembered but battles. This Abbey was afterwards the scene of some important transac-

tions in the history of Scotland, as formerly noticed. It is finely situated upon a narrow neck of land, formed by the river returning, after having nearly encircled a fine piece of land which forms a farm called the "Hood," upon the same parallel upon which it had gone, and is consequently almost secure from any hasty attack,—a circumstance of much consideration during the whole time the Abbey stood. The wisdom of the ecclesiastics, in those days, in choosing proper situations for their religious houses, has often been remarked; and no where, especially in a level country, is it exhibited to better perfection than here. Of this vast establishment,—which at one time could afford accommodation for the residence of kings, and the meetings of the Scottish parliament,—nothing now remains but this tower, which served, in the prosperity of the Abbey, as the belfry; some low ruins, a small and no doubt consecrated burial-ground, where the dust of the present inhabitants mixes with the ashes of cowled monks, mitred abbots, and even of kings,—a ruined dove-cot, indicating the prudent and economical habits of the brethren. There are likewise three gardens of some extent, well stocked with gooseberries; and it is the custom, upon a particular day in the year, for many of the people of Stirling, to cross to the Abbey for the purpose of devouring the berries, qualifying their coldness with plentiful libations of whisky. This is called the "Abbey Fair." Whether this may be the degenerated relict of ancient monkish hospitality, it may be difficult to say,—so completely has the spirit of presbyterianism banished that of ca-

tholicism from the place. It certainly looks not unlike it; for it is well known the monks were fond of living upon good terms with their neighbours, as all peaceable men would wish to do; and this might be a cheap and easy way of accomplishing their object. Another remain, supposed to have been the work of the monks, is of more questionable utility. This is a ford in the river called the "Abbey Ford," which the monks are believed to have placed there, for the purpose of communicating more freely with, and for the conveyance of heavy articles from, the other side of the river. If such be the fact, they are entitled to small thanks for their pains, as it is a serious obstruction in the navigation of the river.—Whether the farm called the Hood, derives its name from some fancied resemblance it may bear to a monk's hood or cowl, we shall leave to be settled by the Antiquarian Society.

The villagers in the Abbey are a kind of amphibious beings, employing themselves alternately in fishing and weaving, but applying very little of their time to agricultural pursuits. They hold their small tenements upon a very frail tenure, being simply tenants at will. Each of them has a small plot of land upon, which he has built a house at his own expense. The garden is generally, though not always, attached to the house; for in changing proprietors, the house is sometimes separated from the garden, because the new proprietor, or feuar, if you please, may require the house, but cares nothing for the garden; or he may require the garden, and care nothing for the house. The

rejected place then becomes the property of the first that chooses to occupy. Transfers of property are never accompanied, in the Abbey, with the complicated and expensive affair of sasines, or deeds of infeftment; nor indeed with any of the legal lumber termed "papers" of the property. The whole matter is conducted in the following primitive way:—Cowan's hospital, which is a charitable institution, is the real proprietor; the town council of Stirling are the legal managers, who choose, for conducting the details of the concern, a factor, who is, in as far as the Abbey people are concerned, the laird. At the transfer, a person comes to the factor, and tells him that his father, or brother, as the case may be, is dead,—for the tenantry or cottars in the Abbey, like kings, never die. The individual incumbent may and actually dies, but not the tenant,—and that he is to eraze Samuel Hunter, and to insert instead, John Hunter, who is willing to pay the same feu-duty, and to be at all necessary expenses connected with his own accommodation; and all this without the least expense to any body. The feu-duty is in most cases very small. There has never been a lawsuit, connected with property, in the Abbey. This curious custom seems to be the remains of that kindly feeling, exhibited by many of the religious houses in Scotland, towards their immediate dependants; and for which they in return expected their tenants to arm in the defence of their superiors, upon the occurrence of any emergency requiring their assistance.

As a proof of the kindly and neighbouring feeling at present existing in the Abbey, the following instance

may be adduced.—Some years ago, a young man in the village had become the father of an illegitimate child. Before he could be re-admitted to the privileges of the church, in which he was a member, it was necessary for him to submit to a public rebuke and censure in the presence of the whole congregation. In order to turn off the edge of this from their neighbour, the entire male population of the village, without any previous concert with the transgressor, resolved to attend the same church upon this momentous occasion, and place themselves near their neighbour, who was in the scrape. When the time arrived, and the culprit was called upon to receive the censure, his whole neighbours stood bolt upright round about him, so that it was quite impossible for the gossips to discover who was the offender. This was fulfilling at least literally the injunction of scripture, which exhorts to "Bear one another's burden;" but whether the really true import of the precept was observed, may be left to the decision of the divine.

Another odd incident may be mentioned:—A cow belonging to Mr. Anderson, farmer in Hood, while grazing about the bottom of the tower, perceiving the door open, walked in; and alighting upon the entrance which leads up the stair, made an effort to ascend, and being once in the narrow staircase, was compelled to complete the experiment; so that the first intimation Mr. Anderson got of the curiosity of his cow, was from her lowing from the balcony of the tower. Had such a circumstance happened in some of the dark ages which have passed over the monastery, it would have

made a tolerable miracle. This curious *hawky* was lowered from the top of the belfry with a pulley, as it was impossible to compel her to retrace her steps.

Between you and the monastery lies the farm of Queenshaugh, so called from the fact that it was the place where the queen's cows were pastured; and a better and more secure place it would be difficult to find,—for while the soil is excellent, being equal to any in the neighbourhood, and sufficiently large for a diary, it is surrounded with water, which, upon most occasions, is deep enough to prevent the predatory efforts of marauders; and as the entrance by land does not much exceed one hundred yards in breadth, it could the more easily be defended against the thievish propensities of the neighbours. Upon the opposite side of the water from Queenshaugh, and between the tower and Abbey Craig, is the farm of Ladysneuck, a name probably suggested by a prime article in the Catholic faith.

With a liberality which is highly praise-worthy, the town council of the burgh, who are patrons of Cowan's hospital, provide a school-room and schoolmaster's house in the Abbey, besides a salary of £10 in the year to the teacher, at the expense of the hospital; so that the people have their children educated at their own doors, instead of sending them to Stirling, or any other schools in the neighbourhood.

Before you, toward the bottom of the Ochil hills, is an eminence called the "Abbey Craig," from the top of which there is a very fine prospect of the surrounding country. It is the property of Cowan's hospital. Some time ago, the late Sir Robert Abercromby proposed to

give in exchange for the Craig, acre for acre of the best land upon the estate of Airthrey, as he was desirous of building upon its summit, a monument to the memory of his brother, Sir Ralph; but whether the magistrates and town council thought they might be justified in making the exchange, however good the bargain might have been for the charity, I do not pretend to know. Certain it is, the exchange never took place; which is the more to be regretted, as from the nature of the ground, the monument would have formed a very prominent object in the landscape. The regret is doubly enhanced to the public by the disappointment of the wishes of Sir Robert Abercromby,—from the consideration, that notwithstanding the many historical recollections connected with the immediate vicinity of Stirling, no monument of any kind has been erected to recall to memory the departed days of Scotland's glory. Here, within three miles of the castle, is the ground upon which were fought four great battles, every one of them important in its results, viz:—The place seen from this spot where, it is said, Kenneth II. overthrew the Pictish army, and established the sovereignty of the Scots, of whom he was king. Again, the great victory which Wallace obtained over the English, commanded by the Earl of Surrey, and which inspirited the Scottish people to strive more earnestly for the independence of their country. Then the immense victory of Bannockburn; which, next to the battle of Hastings, was the most important military achievement ever accomplished within the British islands,—as by it the independency of Scotland was asserted,

and Bruce fixed on the throne. Lastly, the battle of Sauchie-burn, at the conclusion of which the unwarlike and gentle James III. lost his life. Besides these, at a little farther distance to the north, lies Sheriffmuir, where the undecided contest between the Duke of Argyle, and the rebels, acting in the name of the Pretender, in the year 1715, was fought. To commemorate none of these has the least monumental erection ever been raised. How a people so much attached to their own national individuality, and so proud of the achievements of their ancestors, should suffer such interesting spots of their territory to be passed over without a single obelisk to compel the passing stranger to enquire into its meaning, is passing strange. We believe, however, that some exertions have, at various times, been made to erect something to commemorate the battle of Bannockburn, upon a scale worthy of the magnitude of the object. How these efforts failed, it may not be easy to say. It certainly does not redound much to the credit and public spirit of Scotsmen,—who, when residing in foreign countries, are accounted, both individually and collectively, the most tenacious of the honour of their country of any people in Europe,—that they have at home so few monuments, commemorative of that unconquerable love of independence, and indomitable spirit of resistance to foreign tyranny, which inspired a country so poor and thinly inhabited as Scotland was, to oppose a successful resistance to a nation so much more wealthy,—so much more densely peopled, and more regularly military as England was; until, in the progress of events, the

king of the poor and the weak country ascended, along with his own, the throne of England, and so united both. A monument placed somewhere in this neighbourhood, would not only have the effect of commemorating the greatest military achievement of Scotland, but it would also have the advantage of being seen more frequently than almost any where else, this being the great thoroughfare of Scotland, and alike accessible from all quarters. Behind the Craig is a field where the skeleton of a whale, sixty feet long, was found some years ago. It is now in the College Museum, Edinburgh.

Close to the Abbey Craig is the small but improving village of Causewayhead, and above, enclosed by a high wall, are the Castle and *demesne* of Airthrey, and which, in as far as respects beauty of situation, exposure, and shelter, is all that the heart could wish, in a climate like that of Scotland. It is the property of Lord Abercromby, and was left to him by his uncle, the late Sir Robert Abercromby; who, after having realized a handsome fortune, while fighting the battles of the East India Company in Hindostan, returned to his native place,—found this fine estate for sale, purchased it, and during a great many years laid out large sums of money in improving it, and giving it the beautiful appearance it now possesses. Sir Robert seemed ever to be keeping in view, that as he himself was a bachelor, the estate and the fine house and parks, were to become the property, and the principal residence of a noble family, raised to the peerage through the merits of his elder brother, Sir Ralph Abercromby of

Tullibody. He, therefore, thought that no expense should be spared in giving to the place a highly aristocratic air; and we think he has succeeded tolerably well. The estate, before it came into the possession of Sir Robert, was the property of Mr. Robert Haldane, who sold it for the purpose of using the proceeds in conveying himself and some missionaries to Hindostan, with the avowed intention of diffusing Christianity among the degraded and idolatrous natives in our Indian possessions. This immense sacrifice to religious principle, was however frustrated through the narrow and illiberal policy of the directors of the East India Company, who would not allow him and his coadjutors to settle in their territories; although their avowed object was only to inculcate the holy doctrines of the gospel. Being thus prevented from pursuing his original object, Mr. Haldane's zeal was too intense and enduring to allow him to remain an indifferent spectator of the religious state of mankind;—he therefore resolved to apply himself to those who were near him, since he was not permitted to reach those at a distance. With this view he employed a number of ministers to travel through Scotland, preaching from place to place; sometimes in churches, sometimes in theatres, and sometimes in school-rooms, and barns; but more frequently in the open air. The result was, a new body of dissenters from the church of Scotland sprung up, which now numbers from seventy to eighty churches, besides many who have grown out of the same, under the denomination of Baptists,—the first being known as Independents. It is worthy of

remark here, that Stirling should have been the focus of the two principal schisms in the Scottish church;—that in which the Rev. Ebenezer Erskine took the lead, now called the United Associate Synod, and that mentioned above. Nor is there any one place where so many ministers of the established church have joined the ranks of dissenters,—giving up their endowments for conscience' sake; namely Mr. Erskine, and Mr. Innes, who joined Mr. Haldane, both ministers in Stirling; and Mr. Shirreff, minister in St. Ninians, only a mile distant.*

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* It is not a little curious to observe that so early as the year 1639, symptoms of disaffection towards the established form of worship should have begun to manifest themselves in Stirling, as the following extracts from the Register of the Kirk-Session of Stirling prove.—

Jul. 22. 1639.—*Act contrair Nocturnall Meitings*—The quhilk day it wes represented to the sessione how diverse within this Congregatione, being seduced thairto by the entysement of some strangers from Ingland and Ireland that have creipt in, do at thair owin handis and without the allowance of magistrats, ministers or elders, convein thameselffes, confusedlie out of diverse families, about bed tyme in some privat house, and thair for ane great pairt of the night, employ thameselffes in ane publick exercise of religione, praying successivelie, singing psalmes, exponing scripture, discussing questiones of divinitie, quhairof some sa curious that they do not vnderstand, and some (as they staite thame) so ridiculous that they cannot be edified be tham, &c.—Again, The Sessione of the Kirk having considered seriouslie of the noveltie and scandall of thir confused, vntymous and vnalowable meitings, how they do seim to be invented by some spirits favoring Brownisme, [the original name of the independent form of worship,] and gif they should be

The east carse seen from this place is worthy of a remark or two. The soil is in general considered something better than that of the west, and consequently rents somewhat higher. From local situation,—having the Ochil hills so near,—the heat of the sun is somewhat more concentrated, and the harvest in this district is from eight to ten days earlier than farther west, where the recession of the hills leaves a wider space, and more room for the cold air to circulate; besides, the neighbourhood of the high hills, which are more frequently, and for a longer period, covered with snow, diffuses larger quantities of cold air, and which,

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tolerat to spread throwghe this kirk might prove licklie meins to introduce the same, and so be processe of tyme to invert and overturne the trwe form of Gods worship, boith privat in eache familie apairt and publick in the Congregatione, which now throwghe the mercie of God is happilie reformit and purgit of corruptione, &c. Again,—Thairfoir the Sessione ordenis ane remonstrance heirof to be maid vnto the presbiterie, that they may consider seriouslie of the perrell imminent to our kirk by thir seids of Brownisme, which Sathan is begune to sowe, and may think vpon tymous remeids whairby the samyne may be chocked; and in the meintyme the Sessione recommending unto all within our Congregatione to mak conscience of the publick worship of God in the Congregatione, and of the privat worship of God in eache particular familie by it selffe, Dischargis all within our Congregatione from keiping any suche meitings as thir aforsaid, whairin people out of diverse families convein thameselffes togeither *ut supra*, vntill the tyme the Kirk of Scotland in ane frie and lawfull Assemblie do try and allow the same; and the samyne act to be intimat to the Congregatione, and in speciall to these who being seduced have bein keipers thairof.

in its progress towards the east is broken and dispersed to a considerable degree by the various interruptions it has to encounter; first from Craigforth, then from Stirling and Abbey Craig. The west carse has likewise large patches of moss still upon its surface, which acts like a sponge in the retention of moisture, from which it evaporates but slowly. There is not a question, that if all the moss were removed, and the land put under a proper system of drainage, the western carse would become more valuable, and the climate be considerably ameliorated. The district about Blair Logie; and along, indeed, from Airthrey to about Alva, has long been deemed the finest, warmest, and driest climate in Scotland; and has always been the resort of people labouring under consumption. As a proof of the amazing fertility of the east carse, when subjected to the best system of tillage, and favoured by the weather, in the year 1826, Mr. Mowbray of

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Aug. 12.—*Nocturnall Meitings.*—Quhilk day certain of these who had bein reproved befoir for keiping these wnwaranted nocturnall meitings being conveinit befoir the Sessione for new deboirdings, whiche wer so intolerable as forced the Sessione to tak ane present course: Thairfoir it is ordeined that the Minister with all diligence shall wreat to Mr Alexander Hendersone and Mr David Dicksone concerning thair folies; and till thair answer be returned that the ringleaders of thame shall be taken and put into ward for preveining disorder, viz. Robert Mitchell, Johne Dawsone, Johne Henrie, Johne Hendersone, Robert Forrester, and the rest to be warnit to the next sessione day; and in the meintyme dischargit from keiping any suche meitings till that next sessione day, vnder suche paines as the sessione shall inflict on suche as transgressis.

Cambus had a field of thirty acres, under wheat, which produced upon an average eighteen bolls and a firlot per acre; or nine quarters and a bushel. The system of husbandry pursued by Mr. Mowbray is admirably adapted to produce the largest crops. Mr. Mowbray has a large distillery, where he feeds great quantities of cattle; and the water from the byres he carefully collects, and with it waters his fields, after the fashion used in watering the streets in dusty weather. Such a mode of manuring is not within the reach of any of our farmers, who do not feed cattle upon a large scale; and therefore we may despair of ever seeing such crops general over the country.

There is an evil of much greater consequence to the country in carse-farming, than even scanty manuring,—summer fallowing. It is singular, that among the many and important improvements of modern times, nothing should have been done, nor so far as seems to be generally known, even attempted to, provide a substitute for summer following; but one sixth part of these beautiful and fertile plains seems destined to perpetual unproductiveness, unless some other mode of restoring the exhausted powers of the soil be discovered in place of the present expensive and laborious custom of fallowing.

Two objects of great public importance seem yet necessary to bring the productive powers of the country into full play,—deepening the river, and opening up a cheap mode of conveyance through the large and productive district west of the town. These objects, if carried into effect, might prove more expensive

than to encourage this mode of opening up the country; and it might be a long time before they might yield a profitable return for the capital invested;—yet if what has frequently been asserted, be true,—that ten thousand pounds would be sufficient to provide a good fairway in the river for tolerably sized vessels, it does not appear to be a matter of such mighty consequence to raise such a sum. It would be a stinted traffic, indeed, that would not afford five per cent. upon ten thousand pounds. Again, the communication with the western district might be, by a railway, with one line of rails, having off-sets at proper intervals, for carriages, that might be going in opposite directions; now, as it is generally understood that the expense of making a double lined railway amounts, upon level ground, to about four thousand pounds per mile, it must be much less for a single line,—perhaps not much exceeding two thousand five hundred pounds,—so that leading a line through a few miles would not amount to any very great sum; while its importance to the country is too obvious to require any comment from us. The result would undoubtedly be, that an extensive district, capable of producing grain, and other agricultural products, to a large amount, would be laid open, and find an easy and expeditious outlet for its superabundant produce; while, from the same cause, that produce would be greatly augmented, both in quantity and quality, from a larger and cheaper supply both of manure and lime, and all this stimulated by the consideration, that the products of the farm could be more quickly brought into contact with the more

densely peopled places of the country, where they would immediately be transmuted into cash; and thus there would be created a more rapid circulation of money; and the farmer would then labour with a prospect of being more speedily rewarded for his exertions. But we fear this theory will be found to be only a day dream, not likely to be realized in practice, notwithstanding the many advantages which would unquestionably result from it; and which, were our little book the proper vehicle by which they might be presented at full length to the public, might easily be descanted upon. It deserves to be mentioned here, with approbation, that a project is at present in view, with a pretty good prospect of success,—of bringing a branch from the Forth and Clyde canal to Stirling,—which certainly will prove of great public advantage; and we earnestly hope and desire that the Canal Company may speedily effect their object. It will be a beginning to the improvements we have hinted at above;—but we must desist, and bid our reader good day; and, if a stranger, wish him good weather, and good health to enjoy it, during the remainder of his journey.

APPENDIX.

[The following are a few more extracts from the Register of the Kirk-Session of Stirling.]

Meii 23. 1611.—Johne Lindsay being accusit for breking of the ordur of the toun, quha has mareit ane woman parochinar in this toun, be making of his brydell without this toun; he confessit the samin, and therfor it is fund that he is in the tounis will of xx lib. quhilk thay will uplift fra him except he be his gude behaveour in the toun procure thair favour thairintill.

Dec. 29. 1614.—*Mariagis.*—The brethrein understanding the importun and untymus suitis of the compleiting of mariagis suited be many personis in this congregatione, at tymes nocht decent for that purpois, thairfoir the haill assemblie present Inhibitis the granting of all sic sutis, and dischargeis the ministratioune of all mariagis frathynefurth in this kirk except on the ordinar preaching day immediatlie after sermond, and at na uther tyme: And if any personis desyris testimoniallis to be mareit in ane uther kirk, that the samin be nocht granted inrespect the Puiris brod is therby hurt, except thay give xx s to the puir for helping of the said damnage, without prejudice to the last act on the 1st of Dec. 1608.

Jun. 1. 1615.—James Uttem brother in law to Johne Robertsone tailyur, is fund to have absentit himself from the Communione the last ministratione therof without any just caus; and therfor he is admonesit on his kneis, with certificatione if he do the lyk heiraftir that he sall mak publict repentence.

Jan. 9. 1617.—*Vagabundis banesit.*—The quhilk day compeirit Alexander Mitchell, quha confessis the resset in his hous, hurding in his loft of William Kellie and Elizabeth Buchanane, allegeit mareit vagabundis, quha hes na calling nor quhairupone to leive, contrar the command gevin be straik of drum to all the citinaris of the toun, and therfor the brethren of the kirk remittis the said Alexander Mitchell to be punesit be the magistratis and councell as thay think meit, and desyris the magistratis to baneis the saidis vagabundis aff the toun.

Jun. 5.—*Thomas Liddall, Beddall.*—The brethrein being myndfull to mak Finlay Liddall thair Beddall sumthing honest in his abuyement, now in the approching of his Majestie and Court to this

toun, &c. hes thocht meit that Thomas Lawhop sall buy to him ane cloik meit and convenient for his esteat, &c.

Sept. 22. 1618.—*Johne Row.*—The quhilk day Johnne Sharar and Johne Johnsone bealleis reportis that the magistratis and councell of this burgh hes thocht meit that Mr. Johne Row sall have for uptaking of the psalme yeirlie x merkis money; the ane half therof to be payit be the townis thesaurer, and the uther half be the kirk furth of ther penalteis; quherunto the breithrein of this assemblie aggreis, &c.

Vpone the fyft day of November 1622 *thair was na meiting of this eldarship in respect the sermond maist for glorifeing of God for his Majesties delyverie frome the powdir treasone continewit quhill xij houris.*

Feb. 13. 1621.—*Pulpet to be Reformit.*—The brethrein of the kirk, be advyse of my Lord Provest, thinkis meit that the pulpet and Reederis letrun salbe taine doune and reedefeit againe; and therfore thay ordein that the samin be done be Johne Johnsone and Duncan Watsone maisteris of the kirk wark be advyse of my Lord Provest, the Minister, Johne Sharar Dean of Gild, and Johne Williamsone toun clerk; and that they mak commodious seattis about the fit thairof meit for the maister of the sang schooll and his bairnis to sit on, for singing of the psalmes in the tyme of the holie serveice of the kirk.

Oct. 11. 1625.—The quhilk day the brethrein of this assemblie calling to memorie the abbuse of this materiall kirk be wyld foullis, namelie the howllat, quha enteris thairin the tyme of divine service be ane windo within the allegit Ill of Duncan Patersone, &c. &c.; decernis the saidis windois to be closit up be sic meinis as thay think meit for staying of the entrie of all foullis within the kirk, to the dishonour of God and his holie service therin in tymes coming.

Sept. 4. 1632.—*Cunynghame the blind man.*—The quhilk day the bretherein ordeanes Archibald Stirling master of the kirk wark, to give to Williame Cunynghame blind man for the ringing of the meakle bell upon Sonday befoir noone and efternoone and upon Wednesday quarterlie threttie schillings.

Jul. 1. 1639.—*Beggars restrained.*—The quhilk day the sessione ordenis the visitors for the efternoone to attend lykways at the kirk duir in the foirnoone fra the first to the thrid bell, to restraine the beggers fra cumming up above the stepps, and that none without exceptione be suffered to sitt ather at the kirk wall or kirk bourock.

Jun. 6. 1642.—*Act anent keping the Lords day.*—Quhilk day the Sessione being cairfull that the Lords day be weill keiped, ordenis intimatione to be maid the nixt Sonday, that no fischers fische wpon the water fra Satturday at twell houris at evin till Sonday at twell houris at evin; as also dischargis the salmone marcat vpone Sonday morning, and the transgressers of ather to pay for the first fault

ten punds, and thairefter according to the discretione of the sessione.

Apr. 15. 1644.—Ordanis Hieland Mary, servitrix to James Balfour, to compeir the nixt day, for hir scandalous conversing with souldiers.

Jul. 7. 1645.—Ordaines the Boxmaisters to send money with our Merchants that ar going to Holland for bringing home velvett to be tuo Mortclothis and silk therto, &c.

NOTICES OF THE ROADS

Leading to the Trosachs, to the Roman Camp at Ardoch, and to the Rumbling Bridge.

FROM STIRLING TO THE TROSACHS.

Leaving Stirling for the Trosachs, at the base of Hurly-hawky, within a short distance, you pass Kildean toll-bar, beyond which there is a small stream called Kildean Burn, which forms the boundary of the burgh, as fixed by the reform bill. A little farther on, you pass Craigforth. The next object is the Drip-bridge, beside which is Drip toll-bar, and you are now in Perthshire. You now proceed upon a long straight road, when about the fourth milestone, a bye-road upon your right hand leads to Ochtertyre, and to the policy of Blairdrummond, and the wheel erected by Lord Kames for supplying the Moss with water. The Moss lies along at a little distance, upon your left hand; you then pass a clump of trees, beyond which there is a curious and apparently an artificial knoll covered with trees, called Nead Knowe. A fine spun theory certainly, of modern invention, has been concocted from the sound of the name resembling, as is imagined, the word *Naiad*, meaning sea-nymph;—and this notion was enhanced by the fact that the whole of the carse must at some time have been under water. But when the etymology of the word is examined, it simply means *Nest*, very like Edie Ochiltree's "Praetorian here, praetorian there, I mind the biggin' o't." Farther on a piece, the road forms what the Americans call a *fork*,—that to the left hand leading to Thornhill, and Port of Menteith,—and that to the right to Doune. At the fork, upon your right, is the burying place where Lord Kames' tomb is. Immediately after this you pass the parish church of Kin-

cardine in Menteith. At seven miles you reach the Bridge of Teith, where a road upon your left hand leads to Deanston Works, a large cotton factory, employing upwards of a thousand people ;—you then enter Doune, famous in the days of clanship for making highland pistols. Leaving Doune, you pass Doune Lodge, Earl of Moray, the hamlets of Burn of Cambus, and Drumvaich ; and still farther on, Cambusmore, Major Buchanan, then Callander, sixteen miles. Beyond Callander is the village of Kilmahog, where the road again becomes forked,—that to the right leading to Killin, and that to the left to the Trosachs. The next object is Loch Vennachar upon your left, then the Bridge of Turk ; and farther along, Loch Auchray, at the end of which is Ardcheanochrochan, the inn near to the Trosachs. But here I leave you to the direction of a highland guide.

FROM STIRLING TO THE ROMAN CAMP.

Again,—leaving Stirling for the Roman Camp, you cross the Forth by the Bridge ; you next reach Causewayhead, where, upon the right hand, the road leading to Alloa strikes off, that to Ardoch upon the left. You then skirt along the demesne wall of the estate of Airthrey, Lord Abercromby, son to Sir Ralph, and elder brother of the present Speaker of the House of Commons,—a little beyond whose gate, a road, to your right hand, leads over Sheriffmuir to Perth ;—beyond this again, and still upon the right, a diagonal road conducts you to the Mineral Springs of Airthrey. Above three miles from Stirling, is the Bridge of Allan. No village can have a more delightful and enviable situation ;—quite close by are an extensive bleachfield, and a paper mill ; immediately beyond, are the school-house, manse, and church of Lecropt, all doing honour to the taste, and exhibiting the wealth, of Stirling of Keir, whose principal gate-way is immediately beyond the church. In few rural districts, and within so small a compass, will so many fine or comfortable erections be found, and almost wholly at the expense of one individual. Farther on you pass another gate-way to the splendid demesne of Keir, adjoining to which, upon your left hand, is a road leading to Doune. Proceeding on, glimpses of the estate of Kippenross, John Stirling, Esq., are obtained upon the right hand ; you then enter the episcopal city of Dunblane. But Dunblane deserves a small work descriptive of itself, and we therefore

shall leave it without comment. Beyond the city, upon the right, lies Sheriffmuir; you then enter upon a long and rather monotonous road, the workmanship of that sturdy Martinet Marshall Wade. The first object which strikes you is Balhaldie* toll-bar. From this place, for about two miles, there are a number of houses set down at irregular distances,—setting alike at defiance the name either of town, village, or hamlet. Then comes Greenloaning, where are an inn, and a barnlike church and manse, belonging to the United Associate Synod. The road here, upon the right, leads to Blackford,—to the left to Ardoch. Moving onwards, you cross the Allan, and proceed upon a long straight road, upon the right of which is the estate of Ardoch, Major Moray Stirling; and upon the left the water of Knaick, running in an artificial channel, parallel to the road. Then Braco village; at the end of which is the Bridge of Ardoch. Going off at a right angle at the end of the bridge, then entering by the porter-lodge of Ardoch and ascending a small eminence, is the Roman Camp,—a splendid relic of a people who now have only a name. Major Moray Stirling has much credit in keeping it in such a fine state of preservation.

FROM STIRLING TO THE RUMBLING BRIDGE.

From Causewayhead you proceed along the road to Ardoch, until you are very near the check bar, when you turn acutely to the right; you then skirt along the demesne wall of Airthrey upon your left, and the Abbey Craig upon the right. Considerably on, you reach a small clump of trees, immediately beyond which, upon your right, in a low park, is the spot where the skeleton of the whale, formerly mentioned, was found. The spot is eighteen feet above the medium level of the river,—a distinct proof, if any such were wanted, of the alluvial origin of the carse. A little farther on is the east gate leading to Airthrey Castle, and close by is the parish church of Logie,—beautifully, nay, even romantically situated. Onward still, you pass, upon your right, the school-house of Logie, then you reach the neat white-washed village of Blair-Logie, which has long been the resort of invalids for drinking goats' milk. Two miles beyond, is the village of Menstrie, and two miles farther on is

* See "Dunblane Traditions," at the same publisher's.

Alva. Both villages, especially Alva, are much engaged in the woollen manufacture. Just a little before you reach Alva, a road upon the right leads to Devon iron-works. Above Alva a little way, among the hills, is a fine romantic glen, or rather gully, with a waterfall at the top of it, and which it is worth spending half-an-hour to see. Immediately beyond the village of Alva is the entrance to the residence of James Johnstone, Esq., of Alva, whose place bears the same name as the village. Two miles from Alva, is Tillicoultry, and quite contiguous, but still going on, is the estate of —— Wardlaw Ramsay, Esq., of Tillicoultry. Three miles farther on is Dollar, whose fine academy is worth the seeing; just adjoining is Castle Campbell, which was destroyed by Montrose during his struggle for Charles I;—a proof that even Montrose could mix a little selfishness with his avowed patriotism. Onward still is the Yetts of Muckhart, at which place you diverge from the public road to the right, to reach the Rumbling Bridge. But here again a local guide will be of more advantage than any verbal description. The entire scenery along this road is very beautiful; and from the position of the hills, which reflect and concentrate the sun's rays, the climate is accounted the most salubrious in Scotland.

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CONVEYANCES TO, & FROM STIRLING.

There is no town more accessible than Stirling, as the number of public conveyances, of every description, is very great. If we only compare the state of public conveyance at present, with the year 1814, the contrast will be very marked indeed,—exhibiting in a very striking light, the activity which is now pervading the country in every direction. In 1814 there were only, including the mail, two coaches to Edinburgh, and no steam-boats at all; now there are three steam-vessels daily, carrying hundreds of passengers, especially during the summer months; but even during winter the number of passengers is not inconsiderable. The two coaches still run. To Glasgow, there were only two coaches, one merely of which passed through on its way to Perth. Now there are nine, six of which go no farther than Stirling; while three, including the mail,

go on to Perth; and there is a daily coach from Stirling to Perth besides. There are also two coaches daily to Alloa,—and one to Callander during summer, and three times a week during winter. An Omnibus runs four times a-day to Bridge of Allan, for the accommodation of persons attending the mineral wells at Airthrey. For the convenience of strangers, we subjoin accurate lists of the hours of starting of these conveyances, with the exception of the

STEAM BOATS,

whose time of sailing must be regulated by the state of the tides, as the river, in consequence of some fords, is not deep enough to permit the boats passing at any fixed period. The hours of sailing range generally from five in the morning, until five in the evening; and public intimation is given before-hand by means of printed hand-bills, and also by sound of bugle each day, an hour previous to that of sailing. The passage is generally performed in about four hours; and the charge in the cabin is only 2s., and in the steerage 1s. Passengers are received on board and put on shore, by small boats, at the various intermediate ports; and the stewards are amply provided with every thing necessary to render the passage comfortable. The three boats are the Stirling Castle, and the Victoria, belonging to one company, and the Benlomond, belonging to another.

MAIL AND STAGE COACHES.

RED LION INN.

MAIL COACHES.

Despatches.	*Arrivals.*
To Glasgow,..... ½ past 5 A.M.	From Glasgow,..... at 4 P.M.
— Edinburgh,... ½ past 8 A.M.	— Edinburgh,..... 8 P.M.
— Perth,..... 4 P.M.	— Perth,..... ½ past 5 A.M.

☞ Post-Office communications with Edinburgh, by Alloa and Kincardine, twice,—with Glasgow *via* Falkirk, once daily,—over and above regular despatches by mail.

STAGE COACHES.

New Times, to Perth ... ½ past 9 A.M. stops 20 mins. to breakfast
Do. to Glasgow, ... ½ past 12 noon.

Rob Roy, to Callander, from Red Lion Inn, and Wilson's Star Inn, each fortnight, alternately—running every day from June till October, inclusive, at 5 P.M.; and the other months of the year, every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, at 3 P.M.

SAWERS' INN, PORT STREET.

Departures.	*Arrivals.*
For Edinburgh,—The Carron Stage-Coach ½ past 4 P.M.	From Edinburgh,—The Carron ½ past 12 noon.
For Glasgow,—The Defiance at 4 P.M.	From Glasgow, for Perth, *via* Dollar, and Milnathort,—The Defiance at ½ past 9 A.M. Stops 20 minutes to breakfast.

WALKER & MEIN'S STAGE-COACH from No. 1, Baker St.
To Glasgow, ½ past 6 A.M.....Arrives at 8 P.M.

WILSON'S STAR INN, Foot of Baker Street; and CANAL COACH OFFICE, No. 29, King Street.

Leaves Stirling for Glasgow, via Canal.	*Leaves Glasgow for Stirling, via Canal.*
¼ to 6 morning.	6 o'clock morning.
½ past 9 do.	10 do. forenoon.
½ past 11 do.	2 do. afternoon.
¼ past 3 afternoon.	6 do. evening.
5 evening.	
A Coach to Perth *via* Crieff, 2 o'clock afternoon.	Leaves Perth for Stirling *via* Crieff, ½ past 6 morning.
To Alloa..... 10 A.M.	Leaves Alloa for Stirling,
Do. ..... 10 P.M.	5 A.M. and 2 P.M.

OMNIBUS.

To Bridge of Allan.	*Leaves Bridge of Allan.*
6 o'clock morning.	¼ to 9 o'clock morning.
10 do. forenoon.	¼ to 11 do. forenoon.
2 do. afternoon.	¼ to 3 do. afternoon.
6 do. evening.	8 do. evening.

A Noddy from Falkirk arrives at Neilson's, No. 22, King Street, at 10 A.M., and departs at 2 P.M.

CHAISES, POST-HORSES, DROSKIES, GIGS, AND SADDLE-HORSES, TO BE HAD AT

Gibb's Red Lion Inn..... King Street.
Sawers' Inn,..... Port Street.
Wilson's Star Inn,..... Baker Street.
A. Campbell's,..... 12, King Street.
Archd. Thomson's, ... 67, King Street.

PRINCIPAL INNS.

Red Lion,.....King Street, John Gibb,
Golden Grapes.....Port Street, James Sawers.
Star Inn,.....Baker Street, William Wilson.

Coffee House.....Bow Street, Mrs. M'Pherson.
Old Cross Keys.....King Street, Mrs. Gibson.
Port Street, Mrs. Thomson.
Stirling Arms.....Lower Bridge Street, Andw. Ker.

A few of the principal private Lodging Houses.

Mrs. Duncan, Port Street; Mrs. Young, Port Street; Mr. Paterson, Spring Garden; Miss Flint, Baker Street; Mrs. Leggate, King Street: Mrs. Dick, Spittal Street; Mrs. King, St. Mary's Wynd; Mrs. M'Morrin, St. Mary's Wynd; Mrs. Redpath, Broad Street; Mrs. Hempseed, Lower Bridge Street; Mrs. Burrel, Esplanade; Mrs. Dawson, King Street.

MINERAL WATERS.

As our publication may be deemed incomplete, if we do not say something concerning the mineral watering places in our neighbourhood; we may mention, that Airthrey, which is nearest, is distant from Stirling three miles, and is situated upon the edge of the carse, which it overlooks, at the bottom of a low part of the Ochil hills. The place is eminently delightful, and well sheltered, and has the appearance, as well as enjoys the reality, of a fine warm climate. Lodgings are procured at Bridge of Allan, Causewayhead, and some farm-houses in the vicinity. Dunblane is six miles distant from Stirling, and the mineral springs are about a mile and a half above the town; the road to which is by the banks of the river Allan,—a very pleasant and delightful walk. Lodgings are had chiefly in Dunblane, and in some of the neighbouring farm houses. We subjoin analyses of the water at both places :—

AIRTHREY.

In an English pint, containing 28.875 cubic inches.

Springs No. 1 *and* 2.		*Spring No.* 3.	
Common salt,.....	37.45 grains.	Common salt,....	47.534 grains.
Muriate of lime,.....	34.32	Muriate of lime,.	38.461
Sulphate of lime,.....	1.19	Sulphate of lime,...	4.715
	73.68	Muriate of magnesia	0.045
			89.160

DUNBLANE.

Upper Spring in use.

Muriate of soda,.....	21.0 grains.
Muriate of lime.....	20.8
Sulphate of soda,.....	3.7
Carbonate of lime,.....	0.5
Oxide of iron,.....	0.17
	46.17

Two others at Dunblane—the Middle & Rock Springs, not in use.

E. JOHNSTONE, PRINTER, STIRLING.